

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

Thursday, the 29th January 1931.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT:

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| Usman Sahib Bahadur, <i>Kt.</i> , The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed. | Luker, Mr. A. T. |
| Krishnan Nayar, <i>Kt.</i> , The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. | Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R. |
| Campbell, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. | Madhusoodhanan Thangal, Mr. |
| Stokes, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. H. G. | Mahfoob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur. |
| Muniswami Nayudu, The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. | Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur. |
| Rajan, The hon. Mr. P. T. | Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A. |
| Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. | Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur T. M. |
| Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur. | Moses, Mr. P. C. |
| Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur. | Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. |
| Alamelumanga Thayarammal, Mrs. K. | Muniawami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I. |
| Arasu, Mr. V. T. | Murugappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur A. M. M. |
| Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B. | Muthiah Chettiyar, Mr. M. A. |
| Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur R. N. | Muthu Chettiyar, Mr. P. C. |
| Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur. | Nachiappa Gounder, Mr. K. A. |
| Basu Dev, Mr. C. | Nadimuthu Pillai alias Chinnu Pillai, Mr. A. Pl. N. V. |
| Bayabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K. | Nallatambi Sarkarai Manradiyar, Rai Bahadur N. |
| Bayappa Reddi, Mr. P. | Nanjappa Bahadur, Subadar-Major S. A. |
| Birley, Mr. Frank. | Narasa Reddi, Mr. T. |
| Davis, O.B.E., Mr. J. A. | Narasimhaswami, Mr. D. V. |
| Devadasan, Mr. M. | Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P. |
| Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V. | Narayanawami Pillai, Mr. T. M. |
| Dorai Raja, Mr. S. N. | Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C. |
| Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur S. | Palat, Mr. R. M. |
| Foulkes, Mr. R. | Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R. |
| Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur M. | Pate, I.C.S., Mr. H. R. |
| Harischandran Nayudu, Mr. A. | Patnaik Mahasayo, Sriman M. G. |
| Hearson, Mr. H. F. P. | Pattabhiramayya, Mr. K. |
| Hilton Brown, I.C.S., Mr. | Pooker Sahib Bahadur, B. |
| Indraiah, Mr. C. | Premayya, Mr. G. R. |
| Jagannadha Raju, Rao Bahadur G. | Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V. |
| Jagannatham, Mr. H. M. | Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. P. K. |
| Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C. | Ramakrishna Reddi, Mr. A. |
| Kesava Ramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K. | Ramalingam Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur T. A. |
| Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur P. | Ramamurti, Pandit Ganala. |
| Kolanda Reddi, Rai Sahib C. | Ramamurti, I.C.S., Mr. S. V. |
| Kondappa, Mr. A. | Raman Menon, Mr. K. P. |
| Koti Reddi, Mr. K. | Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S. |
| Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri. | Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M. |
| | Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A. |
| | Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. G. |
| | Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. M. D. T. |

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PRESENT :—cont.

Bangaswami Reddi, Mr. M. B.
 Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur
 C. S.
 Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
 Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
 Satyanarayana Choudari, Mr. C.
 Sesha Reddi, Mr. B. P.
 Shetty, Mr. A. B.
 Siva Raj, Mr. N.
 Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, Mr. K. S.
 Soundara Pandian, Mr. W. P. A.
 Sreshtha, Mr. M. S.
 Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
 Sriramulu, Mr. G.

Subbarayan, Dr. P.
 Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
 Subrahmanyam Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
 Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
 Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
 Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
 Vedachala Mudaliyar, Mr. M.
 Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
 Venkataramayya, Rao Sahib Badeti.
 Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
 Watson, I.C.S., Mr. H. A.
 Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
 Zamindar of Chemudu.
 Zamindar of Minampalli.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

Arms and Ammunition

Number of crop protection licences in Bellary district.

* 180 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the number of crop protection licences issued and withdrawn respectively in each of the taluks of the Bellary district since the issue of the Government of India Resolution (paragraph 13) No. F-829-1-22, dated 3rd November 1923, republished at pages 1340-1343 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 27th November 1923, and the number of such licences in force, before the receipt of the orders referred to above?

A.—The information is furnished below:—

Taluk.	Number of licences in force before the issue of the Govern- ment of India resolution referred to.	Number of licences issued after the issue of the Govern- ment of India resolution referred to.	Number of licences withdrawn after the issue of the Government of India resolution referred to.
Bellary ...	...	1	1
Hospet ...	...	1	1
Kudligi ...	1	1	1
Alur ...	1	...	...
Rayadrug ...	1	...	...
Other taluks. ...	...	...	...

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know the reasons why licences once issued were withdrawn?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I shall call for the information."

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask if the Government are aware that the crops in these parts are subject to devastation by wild animals?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have no information ; I shall inquire into the matter."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know the object for which these licences are issued ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" For protection of crops."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I inquire what special facilities are given to the ryots ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" As I said, I shall inquire into the matter."

Criminal Justice

Issue of orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code.

* 181 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state in how many places orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, have been issued prohibiting—

- (a) picketing of toddy shops,
- (b) picketing of foreign cloth,
- (c) processions generally, and
- (d) public meetings generally ?

A.—The Government have no information but have called for it.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether there is likely to be any disturbance of peace when only one or two people go about picketing toddy shops and foreign cloth shops and when they do not form technically an unlawful assembly and considering the fact that even under the Ordinance it is not an offence ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government issue these orders when they are convinced that they are necessary in the interest of the preservation of law and order."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask whether the Government consider that there is likely to be a breach of peace when two or three people are peacefully picketing and merely advising people not to purchase foreign cloth ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Sometimes these things lead to a breach of peace."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know the number of persons who constitute an unlawful assembly ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It is a question of law."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I enquire whether less than five persons constitute an unlawful assembly, and whether one or two persons going about picketing is a menace to the Government ? "

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
 “When one or two persons picket the shops, lot of people gather there and there is always a fear of the breach of peace.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“May I ask whether the hon. Member is aware that, only when the police appear on the scene, a crowd gathers and that, in the absence of the police, there is no crowd at all?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“I do not think it is so, Sir.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“Will Government make inquiries into the matter?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“Not necessary, Sir.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“May I know whether there is likely to be a disturbance of peace when only two or three picketers are merely asking the people not to purchase foreign cloth?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
 “Other people who do not like the picketing, gather there, and there is likely to be a breach of the peace.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“May I know whether the Government have received any complaint from the people to that effect?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“We get our reports from the District Magistrates who think that such things will lead to breaches of the peace.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“May I enquire whether the District Magistrate, to whom the hon. the Home Member refers, received any complaint from any part of the public?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“He receives information from officers under him, such as the Superintendent of Police.”

Police

Detection of murders in the City of Madras.

* 182 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the number of murders committed in the City of Madras during the last two years;

(b) how many of them have been detected and how many ended in conviction; and

(c) what action has been taken against the officers who have been responsible for the non-detection of the other murders?

A.—(a) Ten cases of murder were reported in 1929 and eight in 1930.

(b) Of the 1929 cases, only one remains undetected. Five ended in conviction, in three cases the murderers committed suicide and in another the accused was acquitted. Of the 1930 cases, five ended in conviction, one in acquittal and in another the murderer committed suicide. One case is still under investigation.

(c) No action was called for.

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Alleged ill-treatment of Mr. B. Venkataratnam by the Police at Rajahmundry.

* 183 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a Police officer forcibly removed from the hands of Mr. B. Venkataratnam, ex-M.L.C., a garland and a fruit with which he was honoured on his arrival at Rajahmundry from jail;

(b) what action has been taken against the Police officer for such conduct towards a respectable citizen; and

(c) whether this matter was brought to the notice of the Government by Mr. Venkataratnam?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter was brought to the Government's notice by Mr. Burra Satyanarayana, not by Mr. Venkataratnam.

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—“May I ask whether the information of the Government depends upon the report of police officers?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“Yes, Sir.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—“Having regard to the fact that a number of police officers are involved in these matters, and that they are not likely to give accurate information, will the Government pursue the enquiry and find out the facts?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“I shall do so, Sir.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—“Having regard to the fact that two or three respectable people have complained to the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Home Member about the actual incidents as the former were eye-witnesses, are the Government prepared to contradict or refute the charges made against the Police officers who are concerned in this matter?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“I shall enquire into the matter.”

Alleged lathi charge against a picnic party near Peddapuram.

* 184-A Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a lathi charge was made against a picnic party in the garden of Raja Gajapathi Varma, two miles from Peddapuram on the 21st December 1930;

(b) how many persons were injured and why the charge was made;

(c) who were the officers who ordered the lathi charge; and

(d) what action the Government have taken against these officers and, if no action has been taken, why not?

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- A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answers to clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 230 and clause (f) of question No. 231.
- (c) The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Cocanada.
- (d) None. The Government consider that the action of the Deputy Superintendent of Police was justified.

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ Having regard to the reply which the hon. the Home Member gave yesterday in connexion with the debate on the police cut, do the Government still think that no action is necessary ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ As I said yesterday, a pamphlet has been placed in my hands and I shall institute inquiries.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ Having regard to the promise made by the hon. the Home Member that he will further pursue the enquiry and find out the facts, may I ask whether the opinion of the Government that the action of the Superintendent of Police was justified, will be revised.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ It will be revised, if necessary, after the enquiry is made.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ May I know whether the Government will suspend their judgment on the matter, till they have enquired into the matter ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Not necessarily; from the information we have at present, we think that no action against the officer is necessary.”

Alleged lathi charge on a picnic party at Peddapuram.

* 184-B Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what are the circumstances under which a lathi charge was made by the police on the guests gathered at Vanasantharpana or garden party arranged by Mr. V. R. Gajapat Varma in the garden of Mr. B. Narayana-murti at Peddapuram on the 21st of December 1930 ;

(b) whether any prohibitory order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, or under any other law was in force at the time when the gathering was sought to be dispersed by the lathi charge ;

(c) whether any Magistrate was present and ordered the gathering to be dispersed as being an unlawful assembly ;

(d) whether any other officer gave them an order of dispersal and what was the time allowed for dispersing ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the garden in which the party was held was fenced by prickly-pear and other thorny bushes, permitting only one way of escape ;

(f) whether it is a fact that the one way of escape was blocked by the police lorry ;

(g) what was the time taken by the police in delivering the lathi charge for dispersing the gathering ;

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(h) how many persons were injured as a result of the charge and whether the following persons were amongst them :—

Mr. K. V. R. Swami, Barrister-at-Law, of Rajahmundry, ex-M.J.C.,

Mr. Pyda Venkatanarayana, Zamindar,

Dr. U. Gopalakrishnayya of Cocanada,

Srimathi P. Kamesvaramma, B.A. ;

(i) the nature of the injuries received by the above-mentioned persons ; and

(j) whether the cooks and motor-drivers were also beaten with the lathis by the police ?

A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 230.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) Yes, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Cocanada. He allowed the assembly about five minutes in which to disperse.

(e) No.

(f) No ; there are many exits from the garden.

(g) The Government have no information.

(h) to (j) The Government have no information as to the exact number of persons injured or the nature of individual injuries. If the gentlemen mentioned received any hurt, it must have been in the course of the dispersal of the unlawful assembly.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know whether the answer to this question also will be revised, after the proposed enquiry is completed ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I do not know what points are dealt with in the pamphlet that was placed in my hands ; so I am not able to give an answer to this question.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ It is stated in the answer that ‘ if the gentlemen mentioned received any hurt, it must have been in the course of the dispersal of the unlawful assembly’. The Government are prejudging the issues. The result of the proposed enquiry may show that the assembly was not an unlawful one.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I am not prejudging the issues. The Government came to this conclusion on the reports they had before them. I have no time to go through the pamphlet that was placed in my hands. I shall have the matter considered.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ May I ask whether the Government will revise their opinions after the proposed enquiry ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ On the points contained in the pamphlet.”

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Lathi charge by the police at Peddapuram.

* 184-C Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state with reference to the police lathi charge at Peddapuram on 21st December 1930—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Dr. U. Gopalakrishnayya, B.A., M.D., of Cocanada was one of those who attended the garden party;

(b) whether it is a fact that he arrived at the garden after the lathi charge had been made;

(c) whether it is a fact that he was permitted by an Anglo-Indian sergeant at the entrance of the garden, to go and render first aid to those injured; and

(d) whether it is a fact that subsequently he was also given lathi blows by the Circle Inspector of Police of Pittapuram, Mr. Subba Rao, and constables on various parts of his body?

A.—(a) An Ayurvedic physician named U. Gopalakrishnayya is reported to have been one of those who attended the so-called garden party.

(b) No; he was there before the police arrived.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No. If Mr. Gopalakrishnayya received any injuries, it must have been in the course of the dispersal of the unlawful assembly.

Alleged lathi charge on a picnic party at Peddapuram.

* 184-D Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a picnic party of citizens at Peddapur was attacked by the police with lathis on the 21st of December 1930;

(b) what were the reasons for such lathi charge;

(c) what were the casualties in the said incident; how many received serious injuries; and

(d) how many were rendered medical aid and how many removed to the hospital by the authorities?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 230.

(c) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (h) to (j) of question No. 184-B.

(d) None, because none who received injury was left on the ground.

Assault on doctors who rendered first aid to the victims of the Peddapur lathi charge.

* 184-E Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that even medical men who went to render first aid to the victims of the Peddapur lathi charge were assaulted and injured by the police; and

(b) if so, how many such men were injured and what is their present condition and what were the reasons for such attacks on medical men?

A.—(a) No medical man went to render first aid.

(b) Does not arise.

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I think the hon. the Home Member admitted yesterday that one medical man went there actually to render first aid. May I know whether the Government will revise the answer to clause (a)?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"The information which the Government received is that that medical man was one of the members of that assembly."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I ask whether the Government will revise their opinions after the proposed enquiry is made?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"On the points referred to in the pamphlet."

Issue of prohibitory orders on the picnic party at Peddapuram.

* 184-F Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any prohibitory orders were served upon the gentlemen who attended the picnic party at Peddapur on 21st December 1930 and the doctors who went to render medical aid to the injured; and

(b) if so, under what section of the law and by whom the orders were issued, when and upon whom they were served and whether a copy of the order or orders will be placed on the table of the House?

A.—(a) No. No doctors went to Peddapuram to render any medical aid.

(b) The question does not arise.

Enquiry into the Peddapur lathi charge.

* 184-G Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have inquired into the legality and necessity of the Peddapur incident of the 21st December 1930 and what action they have taken or propose to take against the excesses committed by the Police authorities in the said incident; and

(b) whether details of the enquiry and the action taken will be placed on the table of the House?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have perused the reports of the officers concerned and a summary has been given in the reply to clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 230. The Government see no reason to question the legality or the necessity of the action taken. They are satisfied that the Police were not guilty of any excesses and no further action is proposed to be taken in respect of the incident.

Alleged lathi charge on a picnic party at Peddapuram.

* 184-H Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the lathi charge by the police on people who were taking tea at a picnic party held in a garden at Peddapuram;

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- (b) what was the object of the Police in raiding a picnic party;
- (c) who were the Police officers that headed the raiding party of policemen armed with lathis;
- (d) whether the Circle Inspector of Police of Peddapuram was one of them;
- (e) whether the Inspector of Police of Pithapuram was one of the officers;
- (f) whether the Police officers asked the party engaged in taking tea to disperse;
- (g) if so, the reasons for so doing;
- (h) whether the guests and hosts at the picnic party duly obeyed the order to disperse;
- (i) whether, even then, the Police beat them, including the ladies, with lathis and firewood;
- (j) whether all the policemen engaged in this lathi charge were wearing their uniform; how many of them were without uniform;
- (k) whether the District Superintendent of Police was a member of the lathi charge party; if he was not there, whether he was aware of this lathi charge before it was conducted and whether it was conducted with his permission; and
- (l) whether it is a fact that a motor-car belonging to one of the guests was badly damaged by the Police and that the Superintendent of Police disapproved of this act and has agreed to get it repaired at Government cost?

4.—(a), (b), (c), (f), (g) & (h) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (a) and (b) of Question No. 230.

(d) The Government have no information.

(e) Yes.

(i) The assembly was dispersed by force only after the women present had withdrawn in accordance with the Deputy Superintendent's request.

(j) The Government have no reason to suppose that the Police were not in uniform.

(k) No. The District Superintendent of Police was absent from Headquarters at the time of the incident.

(l) Two of the three motor cars left behind were damaged but not badly. One of these cars had one tyre cut and the windscreen and headlight glasses broken; the other had its hood-glass broken. Such damage as was done to the glasses of these cars was incidental to the dispersal of the unlawful assembly, some members of which were sheltering among the cars. The cutting of the tyre could not have been caused by a lathi and was in all probability the work of a hostile crowd of villagers who resented the selection of Peddapuram as the meeting place for the so-called garden party.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"The Government say in answer to question No. 230 that the Deputy Superintendent of Police proceeded to the place and found that it was a meeting and that somebody was reading from a cyclostyled paper appealing for boycott of foreign cloth. May I know whether the Government seized those papers?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
“ I think they are with the police.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ It is stated in clause (i) that the women present withdrew. May I enquire then why Mrs. Kameswaramma was charged with lathis ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ As she was getting into the motor car, accidentally she received a lathi blow. She herself admits it. It is a pure accident.”

Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR :—“ The Government say they have no information whether the Circle Inspector of Police of Peddapuram was there. In clause (e) it is stated that the Inspector of Police of Pithapuram was one of them. In clause (k) it is stated that the District Superintendent of Police was absent from headquarters. May I know why the Government have no information about the Circle Inspector of Police of Peddapuram ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
“ I shall look into the matter.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ With reference to answer (1), may I enquire why people who took shelter in the car should be charged with lathis ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
“ I shall call for the information.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ May I ask if it is not the duty of the hon. Member to place such information on the table of the House ? ”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ What is the meaning of beating people when they are running away ? The idea is that the assembly should disperse. Why should people be beaten while they are dispersing ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
“ I do not think they were beaten when they were running away. Lathi charges were made and when people resisted, they received blows.”

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—“ When people got among motor cars, it means they were trying to disperse ; then why should the motor cars be attacked and damaged ? ”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ May I ask why the only outlet was blocked by the police lorry ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
“ No, Sir ; there were other exits.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ This outlet was blocked by the police lorry ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ It was not so.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ When did this hostile crowd of villagers come in the first instance ? Were they present before the police arrived there ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ The people of the locality were hostile to this assembly.”

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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Were the villagers present before the police appeared ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have no information. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I enquire whether that garden was not two miles away from the town ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Then why did the police fear that that assembly was a danger to public safety or peace ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" They were concerting measures to obstruct the ordinary administration of the Government. "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Granting that, how is it illegal ? Had the Government promulgated section 144 there ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" It was not necessary. The police have got power under sections 127 and 128 of the Criminal Procedure Code. "

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if the hon. Member is sure that the police officers had no sharp weapons in their possession, with which they could have cut the tyres ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes. "

Civil Justice

Removal of the bar of 13 years' service for increments to Sub-Judges.

* 185 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many of the District Munsifs have sent memorials to Government asking for a modification of G.O. No. 2264, Law (General), dated the 14th September 1922 ;

(b) whether the High Court has recommended the removal of the time-limit of 13 years of permanent service as a District Munsif imposed by the said Government Order for an acting Sub-Judge to draw increments ; and

(c) whether the Government have considered this matter and arrived at any decision ?

A.—(a) Six District Munsifs.

(b) The High Court recommended that instead of 13 years of permanent service a continuous service of 15 years after appointment as a District Munsif, whether acting or permanent, might be fixed as a condition for earning increments in the time-scale of pay allowed for Sub-Judges.

(c) Government have considered the proposal and have dropped it for the present owing to financial stringency.

Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR :—" May I ask whether the Government were made aware by a memorial of the Judicial Officers that the Government Order is ultra vires it having been passed when the Fundamental Rules were in force ? "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The order is not ultra vires."

Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that the order is working great hardships and inequalities ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It cannot be said that the order is working much hardship and inequalities. Some District Munsifs think that it works hardship."

Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR :—" May I ask whether the Government will sympathetically consider the question after the present financial stringency ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Criminal Justice

Convictions under the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

* 186-A Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many persons have been convicted on the ground that they were members of Congress organizations declared to be unlawful ; 11-15 a.m.

(b) how many of them are now undergoing sentence in jails ; and

(c) whether the Government have examined or propose to examine the legality involved in these convictions in the light of the judgments recently delivered by the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Murphy of the Bombay High Court in similar cases arising from the conviction of three Congressmen under the Criminal Law Amendment Act?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information as to the number of persons convicted of being members of an association declared to be unlawful or of those still undergoing imprisonment.

(c) The Code of Criminal Procedure contains provisions enabling the High Court of this Presidency to review such cases, either on its own motion or on the motion of the parties concerned. It is therefore unnecessary for the Government to move in the matter.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" It is stated in clause (c) of the answer that the High Court can review such cases either on its own motion or on the motion of the parties concerned. I want to know whether the Government are not a party to this case ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Government are a party in all criminal cases. And Government are a party in these cases only in that sense."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Are the Government aware, Sir, that the people concerned in these cases are pledged not to take part in the proceedings of the court, nor to put in any defence for themselves ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not know that, Sir. Some persons do put in their defence."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Is there any objection to the Government themselves taking these cases to the High Court ? "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"There is no objection ; but there is no need."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I ask whether the Government will call for information with regard to clauses (a) and (b) of the question ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I shall consider the suggestion, if my hon. Friend is very particular about it."

Arrests under the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

* 186-B Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of people arrested up to date under the Criminal Law Amendment Act together with the names of their respective districts ; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to take up their cases to the High Court ?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to answer to question No. 186-A starred.

Revision of sentences passed on political prisoners.

* 186-C Q.—MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to find out in how many cases of convictions of civil disobedience prisoners, the convictions were illegal ;

(b) whether any cases of such illegality have been brought to their notice by petitions or in any other manner ; and

(c) whether the Government have considered the question of appointing a committee to revise such sentences ?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Convictions in one or two cases have been reversed on appeal or in revision.

(c) No ; no committee could be empowered to revise sentences imposed by a court of law.

Jails

Refusal of political prisoners to give thumb impressions in Cannanore Jail

* 187-A Q.—MR. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many political prisoners in Cannanore Jail have refused to give their finger-prints to the Police ;

(b) what punishment has been given to them for such refusal ;

(c) whether a copy of the statement filed by the accused in this connexion will be placed on the table of the House ; and

(d) whether political prisoners in any other jail have similarly refused to give their thumb impressions, and if so, where ?

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A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (b) to (d) of question No. 105.

(c) The Government have not got the statement.

(d) The information has been called for.

Circular regarding the giving of finger-prints by political prisoners.

* 187-B Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Inspector-General of Police has issued a circular that persons convicted in connexion with the civil disobedience movement are required to give their finger-prints;

(b) if so, what is the said circular and whether it was given under the instructions of the Local Government; and

(c) how many of the political prisoners refused to give their finger-prints and how many were proceeded against and sentenced in this Presidency for such refusal?

A.—(a) & (b) In August 1930 the Inspector-General of Police issued a circular to all District Superintendents of Police to the effect that, in so far as offences committed in connexion with the civil disobedience movement fell within the provisions of the Identification of Prisoners Act (i.e., if punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term of one year or upwards) persons arrested for such offences should, in conformity with the standing instructions of the Police Department, have their finger-prints taken. Certain District Superintendents of Police thought that this circular should be given retrospective effect and accordingly began to take the finger-prints of persons already in jail, whereupon the Inspector-General issued, in October, another circular stating that the previous circular need only be applied from the date of its receipt and not with retrospective effect.

The circulars in question were not issued under the orders of the Government. The application of the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 (Act XXXIII of 1920), does not require the sanction of the Government.

(c) The information has been called for.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know what is the object of getting the finger-prints of these prisoners?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It is for identification."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Was there at any time any difficulty in regard to the identification of these prisoners, as in the case of people of a bad character who give different names at different times?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It depends upon individual cases."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I want to know if there was any difficulty in any case?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"That question should be put to the particular Police officer who has to deal with the person concerned."

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Representations regarding the taking of finger-prints of political prisoners.

* 187-C Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received petitions or representations regarding the taking of finger-prints of prisoners from the persons convicted in connexion with the civil disobedience movement or from Superintendents of Jails; if so, by whom they were made and what were the contents of the petitions or representations so made;

(b) what action the Government have taken on the said petitions or representations; if not, whether they propose to take any;

(c) whether finger-prints are taken of all the prisoners in jails; if not, what classes of prisoners are required to give finger-prints; and

(d) the reasons for taking finger-prints of political prisoners?

A.—(a) to (d) The hon. Member is referred to the answers to questions, Nos. 105 and 187-B.

Constant transfer of Mr. T. Prakasam.

* 188-A Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether Mr. T. Prakasam, Bar.-at-Law and Editor of *Swarajya*, has been transferred from jail to jail and, if so, how often and why and to what jails, together with the period of detention in each jail?

A.—The information has been called for.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“Has the information been since received?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“It has not been received yet.”

Policy underlying transfer of political prisoners from jails.

* 188-B Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the reasons underlying the policy of the Government in the transfer of political prisoners from one jail to another?

A.—Transfer of prisoners from one jail to another within the Presidency is ordered by the Inspector-General of Prisons under rules 468—473 of the Madras Jail Manual.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“I wish to bring to your notice, Sir, that I am referred in this answer to rules 468—473 of the Madras Jail Manual, and that book is not available to me for reference?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“It is in the Library; and if it is not in the Library, if my hon. Friend will kindly come to my room, I shall give him the book.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“I seek your protection, Mr. President. I think a rule must be issued to the effect that if the rules to which reference is made are not available on the floor of the House, then they must be printed and made available to the House; and the question should not, for absence of reasonable facilities, be allowed to be passed over like this.”

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"It is simply impossible to bring the whole of the Library here, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Then you must give the information here."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am not bound to."

Transfer of satyagrahi prisoners to Rajahmundry from Palamcottah.

* 189-A Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that 59 youthful satyagrahis have been transferred to Rajahmundry jail from Palamcottah;

(b) if so, under what section of the Borstal Act or under whose orders, and for what reasons;

(c) whether a copy of the order, if any, will be placed on the table of the House;

(d) whether any arrangements have been made at Rajahmundry for Borstal treatment of those youthful satyagrahis and if so, what they are; and

(e) when the arrangements were made and at what cost?

A.—(a) to (e) In G.O. No. 5330, Law (General), dated 18th December 1930 (copy^a placed on the table) the Government have declared a special enclosure in the Central Jail, Rajahmundry, to be a Borstal School under the Madras Borstal Schools Act for the detention of all adolescent offenders convicted for offences connected with the civil disobedience movement. The Inspector-General of Prisons has taken action under section 13 of the Madras Borstal Schools Act, 1925, for the transfer to the new Borstal school at Rajahmundry of satyagraha adolescent offenders previously detained in the two schools at Tanjore and Palamcottah.

Number, etc., of political juvenile offenders.

* 189-B Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many persons are now kept in custody in the various Borstal schools;

(b) how many of them have been convicted for political offences, and if so, the date of conviction of each;

(c) the respective ages of such convicts;

(d) their educational or other qualifications;

(e) whether all or any of them are married, and if so, how many;

(f) whether the Sessions Judge of Nellore regarded the application of the Borstal Act to political juvenile offenders as illegal; and

(g) whether his judgment was referred to the Advocate-General for his opinion and, if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay his opinion on the table of the House?

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A.—(a), (c), (d) & (e) The Government have no information.

(b) On 3rd December 1930 the Inspector-General of Prisons reported to the Government that there were detained in Borstal schools 149 adolescent offenders convicted for offences connected with the civil disobedience movement. The Government have no information as to the date on which each was sentenced to be detained in Borstal schools.

(f) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 167.

(g) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and that to the second part of the question is in the negative.

Political prisoners in Borstal schools.

* 189-C Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of political prisoners sent to Borstal school, with particulars as to their districts and convictions;

(b) whether any of them and, if so, how many were transferred to the Rajahmundry jail; and

(c) whether any special care is being taken of these transferred prisoners and, if so, the nature of the care taken of them?

A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (b) of question No. 189-B. The Government have no information as to the districts and convictions of the inmates.

(b) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 189-A.

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, is the same care taken of these prisoners in the Rajahmundry Jail as is taken of the prisoners in the jails elsewhere?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Yes, Sir."

Conviction of Mr. C. Rajagopalachariyar.

* 190 Q.—MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many days after Mr. C. Rajagopalachari's release from jail he was again convicted and sent to jail;

(b) what was the interval between the service of a notice on him of his prosecution and his conviction by the Court;

(c) whether the Government have perused the records and the judgment in his case and whether they have taken legal opinion as to the legality of the conviction;

(d) what action the Government propose to take in the matter; and

(e) what are the special facilities given to Mr. Rajagopalachari in jail?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information; but they have called for it.

(c) The Government have perused the order of the Second Presidency Magistrate, Madras, directing Mr. C. Rajagopalachari to

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furnish security under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, and committing him to jail in default thereof. The Government see no reason for questioning the legality of the order.

(a) None.

(e) He has been placed in A Class. The hon. Member is referred to rule 747-C of the Madras Jail Manual.

Number of satyagrahi lady prisoners.

* 191-A Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state with reference to question No. 3 asked by me on the 18th November 1930 regarding the number of Satyagrahi lady prisoners whether the Government have since received the information asked for and whether they will be pleased to place it on the table of the House ?

A.—Yes. A statement showing the number of women Satyagrahi prisoners confined in the various jails on 3rd December 1930 with information as to the classes in which they have been placed is laid on the table :—

Name of Jail.	Statement.			Total.	
	Women Satyagrahi prisoners.				
	A	B	C		
1. The Penitentiary, Madras	...	...	1	1	
2. The Presidency Jail for women, Vellore	...	4	21	17	42
3. Sub-Jail, Calicut	...	...	1	1	
		4	21	19	44

Number of persons convicted for political offences.

* 191-B Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state with reference to question No. 18 asked by me on the 19th November 1930 regarding number of persons convicted for political offences from March to October 1930 whether the Government have since received the information asked for and whether they will be pleased to place the same on the table of the House ?

A.—The information has been received. A statement^a is placed on the table of the House.

Hunger-strike in jails.

* 192 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state with reference to question No. 5 asked by me on the 18th November 1930 regarding hunger-strike in jails from March to October 1930 whether the Government have since received the information asked for and whether they will be pleased to place the matter on the table of the House ?

A.—Yes. Answers to the various clauses of question No. 5 are appended,^b

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Nature of work done by political prisoners.

* 193 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to furnish information as to the nature and kinds of work to which the political prisoners are being put in the jails?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (a) of question No. 107 and to the rules in Chapter XXIV and rules 747-C (7) and 747-D (5) in Chapter XLV-A of the Madras Jail Manual.

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member if he will kindly tell me and the House what the nature of the work that is given to the political prisoners is?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The ordinary work, in the case of the A and B class prisoners, to which they are generally accustomed, and in the case of the C class prisoners, the ordinary work which is allotted to that class."

Supply of butter-milk and raw rice to prisoners.

*194-A Q.—MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the result of the experiment carried on by the Government of supplying butter-milk and raw rice to certain prisoners in their jails;

(b) whether the experiment was a success according to the Government; and

(c) when it is going to be introduced in other jails?

A.—(a) to (c) No experiment has been tried as regards the supply of raw rice to C class prisoners. The Government are awaiting a report from the Inspector-General of Prisons on the question of the supply of raw rice and butter-milk to such of the C class prisoners as are accustomed to them without increasing the cost of diet generally.

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Apart from the answer given on this paper, may I beg the hon. the Law Member to look at it from the humane point of view and see that butter-milk is at once introduced, whatever may be the cost thereby incurred, as the sickness that comes on very often due to the non-supply of butter-milk is likely to be more costly to the Government than the supply of butter-milk itself?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am looking at the question from the humane point of view. The Government have, as stated in the answer, called for a report from the Inspector-General of Prisons."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Is the hon. the Law Member aware that, as a matter of fact, in the Central Jail at Bellary when Mr. C. Rajagopalachari was there, on a representation made by some of us then, raw rice was substituted in the place of boiled rice and that the experiment was found to be not only economical, but also more healthy to the prisoners?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am not aware of that, but I will take the information given by my friend as correct, and I am really glad that it was so."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know what the cost would come to, if butter-milk was given to the prisoners ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know if the question of the cost of supply of butter-milk has been included in the report that has been called for from the Inspector-General ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" That point and other points connected with the supply of butter-milk and raw rice will be considered by the Inspector-General who has been asked to report."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know if the Government do not insist upon the cost of supplying butter-milk and raw rice being the same as the cost of supplying boiled rice ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It all depends upon the information which will be contained in the report of the Inspector-General."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" What is the information that the Government want from the Inspector-General ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Every kind of information relating to this question."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know what the information is that the Government have called for from the Inspector-General of Prisons ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The Government have called for information as to how in point of cost it will work, how in respect of the health of the prisoners, it will work, etc."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" But the answer here does not say so. It says : ' on the question of the supply of raw rice and butter-milk to such of the C class prisoners as are accustomed to them without increasing the cost of diet generally '. It is not what the hon. the Law Member says now."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, that is the point on which a report has been called for from the Inspector-General."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—" Will the hon. the Law Member kindly see that mere cost alone does not stand in the way of giving butter-milk to the prisoners ; especially having regard to the fact that in so many other directions we are wasting money, why can we not spend some more money on these prisoners ? I would therefore like to know whether the hon. Member will see that cost alone does not stand in the way of the supply of butter-milk and raw rice."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I shall consider the suggestion of my hon. Friend, Sir."

Supply of salt to ' C ' class prisoners.

* 194-B Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the question of giving more salt to ' C ' class prisoners ; and

(b) if so, with what result ?

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A.—(a) & (b) Yes, the quantity of salt allowed to 'A' and 'B' class prisoners accustomed to non-vegetarian diet and to all 'O' class prisoners has been raised from $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. to 1 oz. per head per day. 'A' and 'B' class prisoners accustomed to vegetarian diet are already allowed 1 oz. of salt per head per day.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"May I know what the extra cost has been to the Government by increasing salt from $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. to 1 oz.?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"It is about Rs. 3,000; I cannot vouch for its accuracy, but roughly, it comes to that amount."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"In view of the facts that the Government are not considering the expenditure alone as the prime factor, and that they have already incurred, in the case of salt, additional expenditure, will they not consider favourably the question of the supply of butter-milk to these prisoners without reducing other items of diet?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Let me first receive the report of the Inspector-General. I shall then consider all these things."

Ill-health of political prisoners in jails.

* 195-A Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many of the political prisoners in the various jails in the province have been in the jail hospitals during the period of their imprisonment;

(b) the names of such prisoners and the jails in which they have been imprisoned and the diseases from which they have been suffering;

(c) whether it is a fact that dysentery is the common disease from which political prisoners are suffering in almost all the jails in the province;

(d) what is the reason for the prevalence of this disease;

(e) how many of the political prisoners have contracted consumption after admission into the jails; and

(f) how many of the political prisoners were released when they were in a hopeless condition, and died soon after they were released?

A.—(a) to (f) The Government have no information.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"The Government say here that they have no information. Will they be pleased to call for the information?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I shall consider my friend's suggestion."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"Will the Government be pleased to call for the information?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I cannot say that now."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know the reason why the Government are not definite in this respect?"

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Because it involves an amount of trouble which is not proportionate to the benefit that the public will derive from it."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know what the nature of the trouble is that will be involved? I suppose the jails have some records from which the information can be culled out and sent? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Other records have also to be looked into, such as judgments, etc."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Does this not amount only to a collection of statistics from the hospitals, Sir? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Not necessarily so; a host of clerks will have to be employed for the purpose."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Clause (c) of the question would seem to be of interest even from the Government point of view; will they call for information at least in that respect? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I shall call for information on that point."

Alleged ill-health of a political prisoner, Mr. K. Subrahmanyam.

* 195-B Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. K. Subrahmanyam, Congress Secretary, Cuddapah, was convicted and sentenced to one year's simple imprisonment for an alleged political offence and sent to Vellore Jail;

(b) whether prior to his arrest and conviction he had been under medical treatment for tubercular Phthisis;

(c) whether his condition became worse after his imprisonment and if so, how; and

(d) whether his classification as 'C' class prisoner has been subsequently changed for a higher class?

A.—(a) K. Subrahmanyam was ordered under section 118, Criminal Procedure Code, read with section 108, Criminal Procedure Code, on 5th September 1930 in M.C. No. 7/30 on the file of the District Magistrate, Cuddapah, to execute a bond for Rs. 500 with two sureties each for Rs. 500 or 12 months' simple imprisonment in default. He was committed to the Central Jail, Vellore.

(b) & (c) The Government have no information.

(d) No.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Did not the Government get any representations about the health of this gentleman? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir; not so far as I am aware."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" What is the present state of his health? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I want notice."

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Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether any report has been called for as to whether his condition is such that he deserves to be released or not ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I shall do so, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know how, although very detailed information is given so far as clause (a) is concerned, no information is available so far as the other clauses of this question are concerned ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Because it is not available."

Deaths among political prisoners.

* 196-A Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of deaths among the political prisoners in different jails in this Presidency with details as to the nature and the duration of the disease and malady, if any, they respectively suffered from and the treatment given to them for their cure ?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Were any reports received at all about the death of any prisoner ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I cannot say whether any report was received of any person's death. I have no report on the death of this particular prisoner."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I am afraid the hon. Member is referring to the previous question. I hope the prisoner is still in full life to receive some consideration at his hands. We are now on question No. 196-A. I want to know whether any prisoners died in the jails, among politicals "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I have no information ; but if my hon. Friend is particular, I shall call for it."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" It is a very serious matter, Sir, and I hope the hon. the Law Member will oblige this House by calling for the information."

Death of Mr. S. Satyanarayana Moorthy Gupta in jail.

* 196-B Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Siva Satyanarayana Moorthy Gupta of Intur village of, Tenali taluk, a satyagrahi prisoner, died of dysentery in the Central Jail, Trichinopoly, on or about the 9th January 1931 ;

(b) how long he was suffering from dysentery ;

(c) when his illness showed signs of being serious and whether his parents or relatives were informed of it ;

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(d) whether any steps were taken to send the patient to a civil hospital for treatment;

(e) whether the prisoner was having any buttermilk for his diet before he got dysentery?

A.—The information has been called for.

Application from 'A' and 'B' class prisoners for transfers to 'C' class.

* 197-A Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any A and B class political prisoners applied for a change to C class; and

(b) if so, how many of each class, and for what reasons?

A.—(a) & (b) Two A class prisoners and six B class prisoners applied to Government for a change to C class mainly as a protest against the treatment meted out to Satyagraha prisoners.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"May I know whether those transfers had any effect on the fate of the other C class prisoners?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Whatever was possible in the case of those other prisoners was being done, even before the protest was received from these particular prisoners?"

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"The hon. the Law Member said that everything was done to improve the conditions of the C class prisoners even before the protest was made by the A and B class prisoners. I want to know whether it was done by the Inspector-General of Prisons or the Superintendent of Prisons, or by the Law Member himself."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The Superintendents of Prisons and the officers under them and the Inspector-General."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Will the hon. the Law Member kindly give us some idea as to the A and B class prisoners who wanted the transfer?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Notice."

Alleged differentiation in the classification of the same prisoner.

* 197-B Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of instances where the same person having been convicted more than once was classified differently at each conviction together with reasons for the variations in the classification; and

(b) whether Paripudi Rama Mohan Rao of Cocanada was treated as a 'B' class prisoner at his first conviction and as 'C' class at his next conviction; and if so, why the classification was changed on the second occasion?

A.—(a) & (b) The only instance is that of Parupudi Rama Mohan Rao. When he was first convicted he was placed in 'B' class on the information regarding his status, etc., furnished by the Fourth Presidency Magistrate, Madras. This information has since been found to be incorrect. The Government have included

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Rama Mohan Rao in class 'C' at his second conviction on the basis of correct information furnished by the District Magistrate, East Godavari, to which district the convict belongs.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"On what was the District Magistrate's report based?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The change in the classification was due to this: Originally, this individual was convicted by the Fourth Presidency Magistrate, and he personally gave information to the Magistrate about his status, life and so on. On that information the prisoner was placed in the 'B' class. Subsequently, however, he was convicted by a court in East Godavari, and the prisoner in question is a native of that district. The Magistrate there naturally made fuller enquiries and obtained particulars regarding status, life, etc., of this prisoner and it was found that he was not entitled to be put in the 'B' class."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Was the Presidency Magistrate asked why the prisoner was put in the 'B' class originally?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"There is absolutely no reason for it; because on the information furnished to the Magistrate by the prisoner himself, the Magistrate recommended him to be placed in the 'B' class, and the Government accepted that recommendation."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Was not this Magistrate aware that Mr. Rama Mohan Rao was capable of paying the fine of Rs. 1,000 imposed on him?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The Presidency Magistrate?"

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Not the Presidency Magistrate; but the Magistrate in East Godavari."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Notice."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Is the hon. the Law Member aware that this gentleman was fined Rs. 1,000?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Notice."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Did not the application put in by this Rama Mohan Rao contain a statement that he was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 1,000?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"These details of the petition, I do not remember. The petition was sent to the District Magistrate after I received it here and he confirmed the original opinion which he had expressed."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"The Law Member may take it from me that the petition contains the statement that Rama Mohan Rao was fined Rs. 1,000. Does that not show that the accused was in a position to pay the fine?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I shall take the information given by my friend as correct; but I want the further information whether he actually paid the fine."

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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" He did not pay it ; therefore it is he went to prison. But does not the Magistrate's statement that he was in a position to pay the fine indicate his status and position in life ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" If he was really in a position to pay the fine, he would have paid it. The very fact that he did not pay the fine shows that he was not in a position to do so."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Is not the hon. the Law Member aware that these satyagrahi prisoners do not pay the fine generally but prefer to go to jail ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am not aware, Sir."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Then, will the hon. the Law Member not call them satyagrahi prisoners ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not call them so ; they call themselves so."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know whether or not the Magistrates fine these prisoners without reference to their ability to pay the fine ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It is all left to the discretion of the trying Magistrate."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know whether the Magistrate's discretion is used, or not used, with or without the knowledge that a particular person tried before the Magistrate is able or not able to pay the fine ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" As I said before, it all depends entirely on the discretion of the Magistrates."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Is the hon. Law Member aware of any cases of satyagrahis, who are called volunteers, who have been fined such a large sum as thousand rupees ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I believe that there are some persons who were fined to that extent."

Applications for reclassification from prisoners in the Madras Penitentiary.

* 197-C Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many of the old convicts in the Madras Penitentiary applied to their respective District Magistrates for reclassification after recent Government orders regarding the same ;

(b) how many applications were forwarded to the Magistrates and how many were detained by the Superintendent ;

(c) why the Superintendent kept the applications of convicts pending without forwarding them or acting upon the recommendations of the Magistrates ;

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(d) in how many cases the Superintendent acted upon the recommendations of the Magistrates;

(e) whether it is a fact that Retcham Chenna Reddi and his brother Bala Reddi of Kurnool district were recommended by the Magistrate to be given 'B' class and whether the Superintendent has given effect to such recommendation; and

(f) if not, why not?

A.—(a) to (d) The Government have no information. Under the orders of the Government of India, reclassification of prisoners who were undergoing their sentences before the new Jail rules came into force should be carried out by the jail authorities subject to confirmation and review by the Local Government.

(e) The two prisoners were recommended by the District Magistrate to be placed in class 'B', but the Government directed that they should be placed in class 'C'.

(f) Does not arise.

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" With reference to the answer given by the hon. the Law Member to the previous question, namely, that in all these matters the Government are guided by the opinion of the District Magistrates, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state that in this particular case when the District Magistrate recommended the particular accused to be placed in the 'C' class, why should the Government interfere with his discretion?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am afraid that my hon. Friend has misunderstood me. I never said that the Government are guided entirely by the opinion of the District Magistrate. The Government ask the District Magistrate to furnish Government with information and the Government on receipt of that information scrutinize it and come to their own conclusions. Sometimes the conclusion of the Government is identical with that of the District Magistrate and sometimes not."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Arising out of this answer, for how many days or for what period, these two prisoners were kept in 'B' class before they were re-transferred to class 'C'?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Till the final orders were passed by the Government, they were to continue in the class to which they were recommended by the District Magistrate."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know from the hon. the Law Member what was the reason which actuated the Government to revise the classification ordered by the District Magistrate?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The Government were satisfied, on the information contained in the report of the District Magistrate, that the persons concerned were not accustomed to the high standard of living."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to state that the District Magistrate passed orders in direct contradiction to his own information as to the standard of living of these two accused persons?"

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The District Magistrate came to a conclusion and the Government differed from his conclusion."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Having regard to the fact that Government are prepared to differ from the conclusions of the District Magistrate, may I know why they have not done so in the case of the other accused, Paripudi Rama Mohan Rao of Cocanada ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Because there was no material on which the Government could differ."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" So, there is no material for recommending that man to be placed in the ' B ' class ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, there is no material."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know whether on that basis Government could not revise the classification of these prisoners ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" In that particular case Government agreed with the opinion of the District Magistrate."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Does that mean that apart from the District Magistrate's enquiry, the Government have got another agency, which gives opinion as to the status and position of persons ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Then how is it that Government come to conclusions different from the Magistrate, on the materials furnished by the District Magistrate ? "

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" With reference to the answer to clause (e), namely, that the District Magistrate recommended that these two persons should be placed in class ' B,' I want to know what the materials are which made the Government differ from the District Magistrate and place them in class ' C' ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Materials which led Government to believe that the men were not accustomed to a higher standard of living."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the District Magistrate made no reference to their previous status when he recommended the ' B ' class to them ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" He did."

Satyagraha prisoners in Cannanore Jail.

* 197-D Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of Satyagraha prisoners in Cannanore Jail in 1930 ;
- (b) how many of them were convicted for a year and over ;

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(c) whether finger prints were taken from them before trial under Act 33 of 1920, and if so, where and when ;

(d) whether finger prints were again sought to be taken from them after conviction, and if so, where ;

(e) under whose orders such finger prints were sought to be taken ;

(f) whether they were convicted of refusing to give finger prints and if so, by what Magistrate ;

(g) whether the Inspector-General of Police issued any order regarding the prosecution of such convicted prisoners ; and

(h) whether such orders of the Inspector-General were sanctioned by the Government and, if so, when ?

A.—(a) to (c) If the hon. Member will specify a particular date in the year, attempt will be made to obtain the information.

(d) to (h) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to questions Nos. 105 and 187-B. The thirty-one convicts who refused to allow their finger prints to be taken were convicted by the Stationary Sub-Magistrate, Chirakal.

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether Government are consulted before orders are passed by the magistrates ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Government are not consulted and it is left entirely to the discretion of the magistrates. "

Number of prisoners released from the Cannanore Jail in 1929 on medical grounds.

* 197-E Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of civil prisoners who have been released from the Cannanore Central Jail on medical recommendation in 1929 and this year ?

A.—One in each year.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" Has the Government made any solemn resolution to release only one prisoner every year irrespective of the merits of individual cases ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am afraid that my hon. Friend has not read either the question or the answer. The question is ' Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of civil prisoners who have been released from the Cannanore Central Jail on medical recommendation in 1929 and this year ? ' The answer to that is ' One in each year. ' That means that on medical grounds one civil prisoner was released each year. "

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" I ask this question because the answer clearly says ' One in each year. ' I want to know whether Government has made any solemn resolution to release one every year irrespective of the merits of individual cases ? "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am sorry that the question does not arise from the answer given."

Alleged use of the ice chest in the office of the Superintendent, Madras Penitentiary.

* 198 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the ice chest purchased for use in the hospital of the Madras Penitentiary is not kept in the hospital but kept in the Superintendent's office; and

(b) if so, why and for what use it is kept in the office of the Superintendent?

A. —(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

Canals

N. P. Ayyar's scheme for improvements to the Buckingham Canal.

* 199 Q.—Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU : With reference to question No. 42 answered at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 23rd August 1927, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. N. P. Ayyar submitted an alternative scheme, whereby he undertook to invest all the capital required to improve the Buckingham Canal and to make it navigable all through the year, if the Government was prepared to give him a monopoly for his launch service in the said canal and to pay him for a period of twelve years the average annual expenses incurred by the Government for the past five years as per figures given by the Revenue Member in the reply to the question No. 42 on 23rd August 1927; and

(b) what action the Government have taken thereon?

A. —(a) Yes. His proposals provided for a payment to him of Rs. 2,96,203 per annum for a period of thirteen years and Rs. 50,000 per annum thereafter.

(b) The Government decided that they could not entertain Mr. N. P. Ayyar's proposals.

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I know whether Government have any proposal to make this Buckingham Canal pay its way?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"There is no such proposal before the Government now."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I know whether the Government propose to appoint a committee to investigate the possibilities of making this canal remunerative?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"No, Sir."

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Floods*Damage caused by floods in Trichinopoly and Tanjore districts.*

* 200. Q.—**MR. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR** : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what steps have so far been taken by the Government to ascertain the nature and extent of the damage by floods and rains in the Trichinopoly and Tanjore districts ;

(b) whether final reports have been received by Government from the local officers and whether the reports received will be placed on the table of the House ;

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to state the nature and extent of the damage to—

- (i) agricultural lands,
- (ii) crops,
- (iii) irrigation works,
- (iv) huts and houses, and
- (v) roads and bridges

as ascertained officially, giving particulars with reference to the local areas affected ;

(d) how far the ryots in the affected areas have been disabled from paying kists to Government or paying them on due dates ; and

(e) what measures the Government have ordered and what instructions have been issued to repair the damage under the various heads to afford relief to the poor by grants of money, building materials, and grain or otherwise, and to grant remissions of land revenue on a systematized basis or otherwise ?

A.—(a) to (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the paper entitled “ A survey of the floods which occurred in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore and Nilgiri districts in October 1930 ” copies of which have been laid on the Council Table, and to G.O. No. 93, Revenue, dated the 16th January 1931, which has been made available for the press.

Since the publication of the survey just mentioned, an additional sum of Rs. 6,000 has been sanctioned for the grant of loans to Depressed Classes Co-operative Societies in the Tanjore district.

MR. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether he has received any memorials from the ryots of the Tanjore district praying that the payment of kist might be postponed at least by one month or so ? ”

The hon. the **PRESIDENT** :—“ Does this arise out of the original question ? ”

MR. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Sir, the answer to the whole question is stated to be :—

‘ The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the paper entitled “ A survey of the floods which occurred in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore and Nilgiri districts in October 1930 ” copies of which have been laid on the Council Table ’

“ The whole answer seems to be given in that book. Clause (d) of the question asks ‘ how far the ryots in the affected areas have been disabled from paying kists to Government or paying them on due dates.’ My question is, has the Revenue Member received any memorials from the ryots

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of the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts asking that the payment of kist might be suspended by a month at least. For example, the kist due in January might be paid in February and that for February might be paid in March and so on?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I must ask for notice, as I cannot say straightaway whether there was any memorial to that effect."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether in case such an application has been received, he would sanction the postponement of the kist by a month at least?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I think in certain cases postponement of kists have been made by the Collector. The Collector has power to order the postponement of kists within the fasli, in certain circumstances, and in such a case, it would not be necessary for the Government to interfere."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" That is in cases where Government Orders are passed in respect of areas which have been affected or where there has been a partial failure of crop. But in cases, where owing to the difficulty of payment of kist, memorials have been sent—I do not know whether it is to the Collectors or to the Local Government—that payment of kist might be suspended, because of the difficulty of getting money, etc."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order, that is not a supplementary question. It is giving information."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether in connexion with the measures to be adopted by Government to repair the damage and to afford relief to the people, the question of the diversion of the Vennar into the Coleroon is one of the measures under contemplation?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" At present works are under execution to divert a portion of the flood water that used to go into the Vennar and into the Cauvery above the Cauvery and the Vennar regulators, and thence into the Coleroon, if necessary. But there is no proposal before Government at present to carry out any other scheme for diverting the waters of Vennar into the Coleroon."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Considering the fact that only a portion of the upland floods will be dealt with in the manner stated by the hon. the Revenue Member, will he order an investigation of the other proposals relating to the Vennar floods right up to Pamaniyar?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" The local engineers are now investigating those matters."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I know whether the Government have considered the desirability of constituting a committee consisting of officials and non-officials to enquire and find out the causes of the difficulties of drainage in the delta area and to suggest ways and means for improving the drainage in the delta areas?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I do not think it is necessary to appoint a committee now. We had a committee a few years ago called the 'Cauvery Committee' and we have before the Government the recommendations of that Committee."

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Damages by cyclone to tanks and fields in the South Arcot district.

* 201-A Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of taluks and villages affected by the recent storm and cyclone in the district of South Arcot;

(b) the number of irrigation tanks breached and the names of the villages in which they are located;

(c) the extent of damage caused to the said tanks and fields in the villages of the taluks of Tindivanam and Gingee; and

(d) what was the area of the cultivable land with crops that was flooded and submerged under water in each of the said villages of the taluks of Gingee and Tindivanam?

A.—(a) to (d) A copy^a of a report from the Collector of South Arcot, containing detailed information about the floods and the relief measures taken, is annexed. It may be added that 93 irrigation works in charge of the Public Works Department were damaged.

Relief to areas affected by cyclone in South Arcot district.

* 201-B Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have called for and received any detailed report from the Collector on the havoc and damage caused by the recent storm and cyclone in the district of South Arcot and whether the same will be placed on the table of the House;

(b) whether the District Collector has personally visited all the areas affected by the said storm and cyclone; if so, what areas he has visited and when and, if not, why not;

(c) what steps have hitherto been taken by the Government and the local authorities to relieve the people who have suffered from the said storm and cyclone;

(d) what is the total number of people affected and what is the total amount already spent by Government in affording relief to suffering villagers; and

(e) whether the Government propose to afford some permanent relief to the ryots who have lost their cattle and houses and whose lands have been silted up?

A.—(a) to (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 201-A. The Government have no further information.

Remission of land revenue in Tanjore and South Arcot districts.

* 201-C Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what orders and instructions have the Government issued in regard to the collection of land revenue in the districts of Tanjore and South Arcot and whether a copy of the same will be placed on the table; and

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(b) what are the special methods and principles which the Government propose to be followed by the Revenue authorities in South Arcot and Tanjore in the matter of granting remissions of land revenue in case of flood damage and cyclone havoc?

Tanjore.

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to paragraph 6 of the "Survey of the Floods which occurred in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore and Nilgiri districts in October 1930" and to G.O. No. 93, Revenue, dated the 16th January 1931. Both these papers have been issued to the Press.

South Arcot.

The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the report of the Collector of South Arcot, dated 10th January 1931, annexed to the answer to question No. 201-A. The rules contained in Board's Standing Order No. 14 will govern the remission of land revenue.

Scarcity of water-supply for irrigation in South Arcot district.

* 201-D Q.—MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what is the present position of cultivation in the various taluks of South Arcot in consequence of the storm and cyclone;

(b) how many tanks in the taluks of Tindivanam, Gingee and Villupuram have gone completely without water for irrigation purposes during the rest of the year and which are they;

(c) how many tanks in the said taluks can supply water for standing crops to enable the same to be harvested and which are they;

(d) how many villages in the South Arcot have gone wholly without any water and without any cultivation for the current fasli and which are the said villages; and

(e) whether the Government will call for information on the above and lay the same on the table of the House?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the weekly season reports relating to the South Arcot district printed in the Supplement to Part II of the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

(b), (c), (d) & (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 201-A. The Government have no other particulars and do not consider it desirable to ask the local officers to compile the detailed information asked for by the hon. Member when the work of relieving distress caused by the floods, restoring breached or damaged irrigation works and inspecting crops damaged by the floods must throw a great deal of additional work on them.

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Damages by floods and cyclone in Wandiwash and Cheyyar taluks.

* 202-A Q.—Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the extent of the damage done to huts, lands, tanks, crops, livestock, human lives, by the floods and cyclone in the Wandiwash and Cheyyar taluks of the North Arcot district;

(b) what steps have been taken by the Government for the relief of the distressed;

(c) whether the hon. Member will be pleased to lay on the table of the House, the reports of the Board of Revenue and the Collector, if any, thereon; and

(d) whether he proposes to institute an enquiry or ask the Board of Revenue to institute an enquiry as to the exact relief that has to be given—

(1) by way of remission and suspension of revenue for total or partial failure of crops;

(2) by way of advances or loans to cultivators and to the people who have been rendered homeless or whose lands have been adversely affected?

A.—(a) to (c) Copies ^a of the Collector's reports and of the references received from the Board of Revenue on the subject are attached. The Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1,250 for the relief of distress as recommended by the Collector.

(d) The Government have called for a detailed report on the subject.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—“May I know, what is the basis on which the Collector recommended only Rs. 1,250?”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—“I must ask for notice, Sir.”

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—“In the appendix the last sentence of paragraph 6 says ‘I shall report on these particulars in detail after the Christmas holidays’. May I know whether any such report has been received since then?”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—“I do not think the report has been received yet.”

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—“May I know what is the cause of this inordinate delay?”

Damages by floods to tanks in North Arcot district.

* 202-B Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of tanks in each taluk of the North Arcot district including the Arni jaghir that were breached by the recent cyclone and heavy rains in the district;

(b) what steps were taken till now by the departments concerned for the early closing up of the tanks;

(c) whether any estimate of the total cost to be incurred has been submitted to Government;

(d) whether the Collector of the district has personally visited the flood-affected area and submitted any report;

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(e) whether mahazars from villagers have been sent to the Collector praying for postponement and remission of taxes ;

(f) whether the Collector has addressed the Government for the postponement of land-tax in certain cases and complete remission in other cases ; and

(g) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter ?

A.—(a) to (d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 202-A. The Government have no further information.

(e) Some petitions received by Government have been transferred to the Board of Revenue.

(f) & (g) No such reports have been received.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—“ With reference to clause (d) of the question may I know whether the Collector personally visited the flood affected area ? ”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“ I must ask for notice.”

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—“ Will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to visit the flood affected area ? ”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“ If I can find the time, I shall be glad to visit the area.”

Forest Panchayats

Rules for the management of forest panchayats.

* 203 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the draft rules for the management of panchayat forests have been approved by the Government and if so, the date from which the rules have taken effect ;

(b) whether a copy of the rules will be placed on the table of the House ; and

(c) if all the unanimous recommendations of the committee who submitted the draft rules have been approved of by the Government, if not, the reasons therefor ?

A.—(a) & (c) The draft Standing Order relating to Forest Panchayats is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) The suggestion will be considered.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member when the draft rules were submitted to the Government ? ”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“ I do not remember the exact date.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know when the notice inviting objections, if any, to the proposals, was published by the Government ? ”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“ I must ask for notice.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Was a member of Government a party to the recommendations, I refer to the hon. the Chief Minister ? ”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“ Yes, Sir.”

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Storage of water for cattle in Sogi reserve, Bellary district.

* 204 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the facilities for water that exist in the Sogi reserve, Bellary district, for the cattle for which permits are taken and whether they are adequate;

(b) whether there is a bund called 'Gowdan Katti' in the said reserve which, if repaired, would provide sufficient storage of water to last all the year round; and

(c) whether any, if so, what steps have been taken for the repair of the said bund?

A.—(a), (b) & (c). The Sogi Reserved Forest is being managed by three panchayats—Sogi, Adivimallanakeri and Nagathibasapuram. The following are the water sources that exist in each of the panchayat areas:—

Sogi Panchayat.—Two cattle-ponds (1) Kempukatti and (2) Gaudrakatta (referred to in clause (b) of the question). The former is a small pond. It was repaired by the panchayat in the year 1929-30 at a cost of Rs. 20. The latter is a fairly big one. Its bund is, however, breached in one place. The repairs necessary to close the breach are estimated to cost Rs. 150. The panchayat is setting apart Rs. 25 every year for carrying out the repairs. When the bund is repaired, the pond is likely to retain water all the year through.

Adivimallanakeri Panchayat.—(1) A jungle stream cross-bunded in the year 1927-28 at a cost of Rs. 40 which now retains water for nearly four months in the year; (2) a cattle pond called 'Laykakatti' repaired during 1929-30 at a cost of Rs. 25. A further sum of Rs. 150 is reported to be necessary to complete the repairs. A condition that a sum of Rs. 20 should be spent every year on repairs to this pond exists in the agreement, and it will be enforced.

Nagathibasapuram Panchayat.—Two cattle-ponds called (1) Hosakeri; (2) Honnappakunta. The first was repaired by the panchayat during 1926-27 at a cost of Rs. 85-15-0. The second has been repaired at a cost of Rs. 120-10-0.

The facilities for drinking water for cattle available in the reserve, are therefore not inadequate; and the panchayats are endeavouring to improve them every year.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"It will be found from the answer that there is a work which is expected to cost about Rs. 150 and the Government directed that Rs. 25 should be set apart every year for carrying out repairs. This means that the whole amount will be wasted if done by stages every year and there is no chance of completing it if it is not done at one stroke?"

THE HON. MR. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"It will cost Rs. 150 and so, Rs. 25 is to be set apart for it each year."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" We hear of so many cases where the work done in a particular year is washed away in the next year and I would therefore request the hon. Member to do the work at one stroke."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I do not think it is necessary that Rs. 25 will be spent each year, but Rs. 25 has been set apart for each year until the accumulated sum is Rs. 150."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" That means that the work has to be postponed for about six years. Will the hon. Member consider the fact that if the people in that place are spared the payment of the rent fixed by Government for a year or two they will carry the work expeditiously? Will the Government be pleased to forego the rent and allow the people to do the work themselves?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I do not think that it is possible for the Government to forego the rent as suggested by the hon. Member; but I will see if arrangements can be made to advance the money."

Irrigation

Supply of water for some villages under the Palar Anicut System.

* 205 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NATAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the villages of Melpuleri, Moranam, Batheri, Pullavakam and Asanammapettai in Cheyyar taluk, North Arcot district, come under the Palar Anicut System paying wet assessment; and

(b) whether the channel feeding the supply to the above villages is completely blocked up and never serves the purpose for which it was intended?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have not the information, but have called for a report.

Report on the flow of water from the Shevaroy Hills.

* 206 Q.—Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether he has got the report yet, regarding the flow of water from the Shevaroy Hills through the Vennar river, which was formerly running into Salem through Tirumanimuttar river? (Vide question No. 277 of 10th August 1929.)

A.—Yes. It has been reported that there is no ground for the suggestion that the water of the Tirumanimuttar has been diverted into the Vennar. The rivers and their watersheds run in opposite directions.

Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur :—" May I know whether the report contains mention of the slipping of a big boulder on the water course from the Shevaroy Hills?"

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I point out there is a mistake in the name of the river? The name is not Vennar but Vanniyar."

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Investigation of the Tungabhadra project.

* 207 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state the further progress made in the investigation of the Tungabhadra project during the course of the year and the stage which the negotiations, if any, with the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad have reached?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 16 on 19th November 1930.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Nizam's Government have agreed to join this Government in investigating this project? I hear rumours about that; may I know whether the Government have received any communication about it?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"No, Sir, we have not received any communication."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"From the answer given on the 19th November 1930, I have been led to believe that the whole question is likely to be shelved, and therefore may I ask the Member for Revenue to take up the project as recommended by the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I cannot accept the premises of the hon. Member. I don't see any reason why the matter is likely to be shelved."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know at which particular site the Government are going to carry out the scheme?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I am sorry I cannot say."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know when the Government propose to complete the investigation?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I am unable to say when it will be completed."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I know what prevents the Government from taking active measures on the recommendations of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee and fixing the site at Malappuram?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"We have been taking active measures. If we fix the site at Malappuram a large area of the land in Hyderabad State will be submerged and we cannot proceed with the work without consulting His Exalted Highness' Government."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Then in that case why not you fix the site on the other side of the river at Timmalapuram?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"That will submerge land belonging to the Bombay Presidency and the Mysore State."

Withholding of water for cultivation from ryotwari pattadars for participating in political activities.

* 208 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHARIAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state in how many cases water for cultivation purposes has been withheld from ryotwari pattadars in the Northern Circars on the ground that they either took part in or sympathised with the civil disobedience movement?

A.—The Government have not the information.

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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"In view of the seriousness of the allegations made in regard to this, may I know whether the Government will call for the information?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I don't think it is necessary to call for it."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"May I take it, Sir, that the Government are satisfied that there have been such cases?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"No, Sir, the Government are not aware of such cases."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know who authorized the tahsildars to issue circulars withholding water for cultivation purposes? I myself have seen some of those circulars."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I am not aware of any such circulars."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I have heard tahsildars declaring that they have been duly authorized to issue those circulars."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I have not heard of any such circulars."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Will Government issue now at least orders to their subordinates not to hinder the supply of water to cultivators?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"It is open to the aggrieved parties to appeal to the Collector who will look into the matter."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, why water has been disallowed to irrigable lands when as a matter of fact it has been allowed for the last so many years even on the footing of wet lands?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"If these complaints are brought to the notice of the Collector by the aggrieved parties, he will no doubt look into them."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Considering the fact that there is a widespread impression that such orders have been issued, will the Government reconsider this question and call for the information?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I would prefer to leave the matter to the persons affected to resort to the usual procedure which is open to them."

Land Assignment

Application for grant of land by Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao.

* 209 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether Diwan Bahadur D. Seshagiri Rao, Advocate of Cocanada, has applied for a grant of land in the district of East Godavari;

(b) what is the extent of the land that he has applied for;

(c) what is the recommendation of the Collector of the District thereon;

(d) whether this gentleman has been organising the People's Party and Loyalists' meetings in the district; and

(e) at what stage the question is at present?

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4.—(a), (b) & (c) The gentleman in question made no application for a grant of land. The Collector has recommended that such a grant should be made to him. The proposal is under the consideration of Government.

(d) The gentleman in question played a prominent part in combating the civil disobedience movement in 1921-22 and again last year.

(e) Detailed proposals are awaited from the Collector.

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"With reference to the answer to clauses (a), (b) and (c), may I know whether it is a fact that the Collector recommended assignment of land to this gentleman on the ground that he played a prominent part in combating the civil disobedience movement?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Yes, Sir."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether there was any civil disobedience movement in 1921-22?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Yes, there was one movement then which was called the non-co-operation movement?"

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"What is the minimum extent of land awarded to a person who combats the civil disobedience movement, and in what particular manner should he combat the civil disobedience movement to entitle him to an award of land?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I do not know of any rules on the subject."

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Am I to understand that if the parties concerned in the previous question do not move in the matter, the Government are not going to do anything?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Yes, Sir."

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know why Government are favourably disposed in this case; whereas they take an opposite attitude in the previous question?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"The gentleman concerned in this question assisted the Government in restoring law and order: those referred to in the previous question have apparently been taking the opposite course."

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"In the latter cases you punish them also?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Possibly."

Assignment of lands in Harivanam village, Adoni taluk.

* 210 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the occupation of the Survey No. 120 (a) of Harivanam, Adoni taluk, Bellary district, was considered objectionable and the occupant was charged penalties during the last two years and was once ejected from the land;

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(b) whether the village panchayat has also objected to the assignment on the ground, among others, that it is needed for cattle to stay when they are taken to the adjoining vanka for water; and

(c) whether the said number is now proposed to be assigned on patta, and if so, how the objections referred to in (a) and (b) above have been disposed of?

A.—(a) to (c) The Government have not the information, but have called for a report.

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ With reference to the answer that ‘ Government have not the information ’, Sir, in view of the fact that the village panchayat has objected to the assignment of land in question on patta, will the Government communicate to the Collector and the local authorities concerned not to assign the land on patta inasmuch as it is required for cattle as pasture ground ? ”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“ I cannot promise anything until I receive the report which I called for in November last.”

Revenue Establishments

Appointments by the Huzur Sarishtadar of South Arcot district.

* 211 Q.—Rao Sahib V. DHARMALINGAM PILLAI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the present Huzur Sarishtadar of South Arcot district has been continuing in the same place for more than three periods;

(b) if so, what are the special reasons to continue him there;

(c) whether the present incumbent is allowed freely and completely to handle for himself all matters of promotions, transfers and postings of the subordinates in the department; and

(d) in how many cases such promotions, etc., have been cancelled by the Board of Revenue?

A.—(a) to (d) The Government have no information.

Rao Sahib V. DHARMALINGAM PILLAI :—“ May I know whether the Government will call for the information ? ”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“ I do not consider it necessary to call for the information. I will draw the attention of the Board of Revenue to the statements made by the hon. Member.”

Mr. N. SIVA RAJ :—“ May I know why the Government have no information. Is it because they cannot get the information; or is it because they do not care to get the information ? ”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“ In this case I see no necessity to call for the information. I have already stated that I will call the attention of the Board of Revenue to the statements made.”

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Recruitment of Deputy Tahsildars.

* 212 Q.—Mr. A. KONDAPPA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Deputy Tahsildars directly recruited from 1918 till the end of 1930;

(b) how many were recruited from the Tamil districts and how many from the Telugu districts;

(c) whether any Deputy Tahsildars were recruited from the Ceded districts, and if so, how many;

(d) how many applications were received from the Ceded districts during the period 1918 to 1930; and

(e) how many applicants coming from the agricultural or ryot population were recruited as Deputy Tahsildars during the same period?

A.—(a) 47.

(b) 24 were recruited from Tamil districts and 14 from Telugu districts.

(c) Yes. Two, in the year 1920.

(d) & (e) The Government have not the information.

Mr. A. KONDAPPA:—“With reference to the answer to clauses (d) and (e), may I request the hon. the Revenue Member to call for the information from the respective Collectors' offices and if it is not available there from the several tahsildars' offices?”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—“I do not think the collection of this material is worth the trouble involved, as we will have to obtain information from a large number of applicants. Further, I am not clear as to the definition of the terms ‘agricultural or ryot population’.”

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“With reference to answer to clause (c) I see only two candidates from the Ceded districts during the last eleven years have been chosen. In view of that inadequate number, may I request the Revenue Member to see that more candidates are chosen from these districts hereafter?”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—“I cannot say whether that number is adequate or not. But I shall see whether measures can be taken to ensure that the number of candidates chosen in future is distributed evenly throughout the Presidency.”

Survey and Settlement*Proposed enhancement of land revenue in Malabar.*

* 213 Q.—Mr. R. M. PALAT: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose a new settlement for the enhancement of land revenue in any part of Malabar; and

(b) whether, in this connexion, the Government have taken into consideration

(i) the fact that the interpretation of the proclamation of the 21st of July 1805 by Mr. Warden, Collector of Malabar, made on behalf of the Board of Revenue and the Government is that the Government has bound itself to a permanency of the proportion of the Government demand of the produce, and

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(ii) the opinion of the Government Pleader, Mr. Shephard, dated 10th of May 1882 and of Messrs. McWatters and Logan, Collectors of Malabar and of the Revenue Board (please see G.O. No. 459, Revenue, dated 18th April 1883)?

A.—(a) & (b) The proposal of the Special Settlement Officer, No. IV party, for the re-settlement of the eight plains taluks of the Malabar district have been published in the *Malabar District Gazette* for January 1931. The Government observe that the matters referred to in clause (b) of the question have been alluded to by the Special Settlement Officer in paragraphs 39 and 57 of his report. Three months' time has been allowed for making representations in regard to the proposals—vide notification published in the *Malabar District Gazette Extraordinary*, dated 12th January 1931. The proposals of the Special Settlement Officer will be considered by this Government on the expiry of the period specified in the notification.

Resurvey of some taluks in South Kanara.

* 214 Q.—MR. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal to re-survey the taluks of South Kanara which have not been re-surveyed;

(b) if so, for what reasons;

(c) whether the public are opposed to the re-survey; and

(d) what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) to (d) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

MR. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know whether the Survey Department has made any communication in the matter of re-survey of the taluks of South Kanara?"

The hon. MR. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"We have received no recommendation for the re-survey of the taluks of South Kanara."

MR. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know what is the interest that the Survey Department has in re-surveying the district of South Kanara when the people of that district object to it?"

The hon. MR. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I said we have not received any communication from the Survey Department."

Local Boards and Municipal Councils

Leasing of trees for tapping by local bodies.

* 215 Q.—MR. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any objection to the stoppage of the practice of leasing out trees for tapping by certain district boards and municipalities?

A.—No.

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Medical*Karkal Taluk Headquarters hospital.*

* 216 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) how many taluk headquarters hospitals are proposed to be taken over by Government next year; and

(b) whether the question of taking over the Karkal Taluk Headquarters hospital has been considered by Government in this connexion?

A.—(a) None.

(b) Yes.

Religious and Charitable Endowments*Proposals for helping temple committees in their work.*

* 217 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have under consideration any proposals for helping the temple committees in their work?

A.—No.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that many of the temple committees are not functioning in accordance with the provisions of the Act for want of sufficient funds?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"We have no information."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"May I know what work is done by these temple committees? Why not the Government make them work properly?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"The committees are working according to the provisions of the Act under which they are constituted. They cannot be made to work by the Government."

Co-operative Societies*Representations made by the South Kanara District Advancement Association.*

* 218 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the representations made to His Excellency the Governor by the South Kanara District Advancement Association last month; and

(b) what action is proposed to be taken in regard to them?

A.—The representations made by the Association are still under the consideration of Government.

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Veterinary

Rinderpest in South Kanara.

* 219 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) the places where rinderpest is now prevailing in South Kanara;
- (b) the number of cattle that have died from it during each month since September (1930);
- (c) the number of inoculations performed each month since September and the number of veterinary officers engaged in this work; and
- (d) whether the Government propose to employ any additional hands for inoculation work?

A.—(a) The places where rinderpest is now prevailing in South Kanara are given in the appended list.^a

(b) The number of deaths of cattle from September 1930 to December 1930 is as follows:—

September	...	...	...	...	74
October	...	...	...	...	231
November	...	...	...	...	501
December	...	...	...	...	564

(c) The number of inoculations performed each month since September 1930 and the number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons engaged in this work are as follows:—

Month.	Number of inoculations performed.	Number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons engaged.
September	315	4
October	296	
November	478	
December	2,043	

(d) An additional Veterinary Assistant Surgeon has already been posted for rinderpest work in the South Kanara district and the District Veterinary Officer is posting one more assistant for inoculation work.

Education

Reorganization of the Educational Services.

* 220—A Q.—Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

- (a) whether final orders have been passed with regard to the reorganization of the Educational Services and whether they have been given effect to;
- (b) whether the Government have considered the report of the High Commissioner for India on the work of the Education Department of the High Commissioner's Office, London, for the year 1928-29 and what orders have been passed by the Government;

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(c) whether the observations made therein in paragraphs 113-117 and specially the observation in paragraph 117, viz., 'An official announcement in plain and emphatic terms to the effect that a British degree or training is in no way an essential qualification for the various Government appointments would be bound to have effect in the way of encouraging students to stay in their own country' have been considered by the Government and whether any such official announcement has been made by the Government; and

(d) whether in view of the observations above referred to, the Government have considered the desirability of removing the distinction between the degrees of foreign and Indian Universities in the matter of recruitment to the Educational services?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The Government have perused the report: the report is not one on which the Local Government are called upon to pass any orders.

(c) The Government have considered these observations but have not thought it necessary to issue an announcement as suggested.

(d) Does not arise, in view of the answer to clause (a).

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ May I know whether even after the lapse of two years Government do not wish to pass any orders on the report of the High Commissioner for India, on the work of the Education Department ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—“ No, Sir.”

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—“ May I know, Sir, when Government proposes to pass final orders ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—“ I am not prepared to make a forecast now. I shall pass final orders as quickly as possible.”

Reorganization of the Superior Educational Service.

* 220-B Q.—Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether final orders have been passed on the question of the reorganization of the Superior Educational Services ?

A.—No.

Exemption to Muslims from compulsory elementary education.

* 221 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state the Municipal towns in which compulsory elementary education is being enforced and such of the towns as have exempted Muslim children from its provisions and the reasons for doing so ?

A.—Compulsory elementary education is in force in the Madras City and in the municipalities mentioned in the appended statement.^a Muslim girls have been exempted from the operation of the compulsory education scheme in the municipalities of Erode and

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Cochin in accordance with the expressed wishes of the municipal council and the District Educational Council concerned respectively. In the City of Madras, the exemption of Muslim girls from the operation of the scheme has been sanctioned as a temporary measure pending the provision of adequate facilities for the education of girls of that community.

Mr V. T. ARASU :—" May I know whether in the City of Madras, Muslim boys are also exempted from the operation of the Compulsory Education Act? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I am not aware of any such thing."

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—" Are the Government aware that about 5,000 Muslim boys of school-going age are employed in beedi factories? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Beedi factories do not come under education." (Laughter.)

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—" But those boys are all of the school-going age."

Grants to the Coimbatore Municipality for subsidizing Muslim schools.

* 222-A Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) in how many cases the Government refused to pay half-grant to the Municipality of Coimbatore for maintaining or subsidizing Muslim schools at Coimbatore; and

(b) what is the reason, if any, for such refusal of grant?

A.—(a) In one case.

(b) Leaving out of account the statutory contribution payable to local bodies under the proviso to section 37 of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, the Government do not generally grant subsidies to local bodies towards the cost of elementary schools established and maintained by them or taken over by them from private managements. Government however subscribe to the Elementary Education Fund which may be used for the upkeep of such schools.

Scholarships to Muslim students in Coimbatore district.

* 222-B Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state what is the number of scholarships awarded to Muslim boys and girls by Government in the district of Coimbatore during the last five years and what is their individual and aggregate value?

A.—A statement showing the particulars is appended.^a

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Opinions regarding the Madras Elementary Education Bill.

* 223 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Does the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise propose to place on the table of the House the opinions so far received on the Madras Elementary Education Bill from officials and non-officials, local bodies and public institutions ?

A.—The Government do not propose to publish the opinions received.

Number of Higher Elementary schools in South Kanara.

* 224 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) the number of higher elementary training schools in Malabar and in South Kanara ;

(b) the number of trained and untrained teachers in the elementary schools of South Kanara ;

(c) the number of pupil teachers who applied for admission and the number admitted in the higher elementary training school in Mangalore during each of the last three years ; and

(d) whether the District Educational Council of South Kanara has asked for the opening of another training school in the district and whether the Government have considered this matter ?

					Number of higher elementary training schools for	
					Masters.	Mistresses.
A.—(a)—	Malabar	...	...	...	6	3
	South Kanara	...	...	...	1 (2 sections).	3
					Trained teachers.	Untrained teachers.
(b)—	Boys' schools	...	...	...	1,703	1,797
	Girls' schools	...	...	...	286	73
					Number of candidates who applied for higher elementary training.	Number admitted.
(c)—	1928	...	...	...	176	80
	1929	...	...	...	219	87
	1930	...	...	...	338	85

(d) Yes. Owing to financial stringency the proposal has not been considered.

Excise*Scheme to start total prohibition in one or two districts.*

* 225 Q.—Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have a scheme on hand to start total prohibition in one or two districts during the next official year ; and

(b) if so, whether provision will be made for this in the coming budget ?

A.—(a) & (b) No ; but a start in this direction has been made in selected areas in five districts.

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, Sir, why Government, in spite of this matter being agitated in this Council for some time, are not prepared to adopt total prohibition at least in one district? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" On the last occasion when such a resolution was brought up in this Council, it was not passed."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Is the hon. Minister aware that the scheme of complete prohibition has to be worked out in 20 years? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" That is the resolution passed by this Council and it is binding on the Government on the Transferred side."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Has the hon. Minister taken any steps in pursuance of that resolution? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Certainly."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know what they are? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" It is already contained in the answer there."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Was this done by the present Minister? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" It is the same policy as before."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Has there been a change in the angle of vision since the vote of the Legislative Council on the budget last year? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" The angle of vision has been all right."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Has there been any change in the policy? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" It is the same policy as was adopted by the last Minister."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Has there been any extension of the area in which prohibition has been adopted? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" In how many taluks, Sir? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" In at least three taluks."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether in view of the resolution that total prohibition should be introduced in twenty years' time, it follows that at least in one district total prohibition should be introduced every year as there are 26 odd districts in the Presidency, so that total prohibition can be established within the period of twenty years? "

12 noon.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" It does not follow. It may be that we introduce total prohibition in one district this year, two or three districts next year and so on." (Hon. Members :—"Hear, Hear;")

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR.—“May I ask with reference to answers to clauses (a) and (b) if Government are making any provision for total prohibition in any other area?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR.—“The budget on the receipt side has provided for much less revenue than during the preceding years.”

Removal of a toddy shop in Calicut municipality.

* 226 Q.—MR. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Excise Licensing Board, Calicut, at one of its meetings adopted a resolution unanimously to shift toddy shop No. 8 in Calicut municipality;

(b) whether the shop remains still in the same place in spite of the resolution of the Board;

(c) whether the Government have vetoed the resolution of the Board; and

(d) whether he will be pleased to place on the table of the House the orders of the Government together with the recommendations of the Commissioner of Excise on the subject?

A —(a) to (d) The Government have called for a report.

Powers of Excise Licensing Boards and Advisory Committees.

* 227 Q.—MR. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) the number of municipalities and Revenue divisions for which the Excise Licensing Boards and the Excise Advisory Committees respectively have been created since the original scheme creating these bodies for certain areas was sanctioned;

(b) whether the powers of these bodies still remain the same as those mentioned in the original scheme; and

(c) what the orders of the Government are either extending or limiting the powers of these bodies?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 1311, given at the Legislative Council Meeting held on 28th January 1930. Since then, Excise Advisory Committees have been constituted for the Revenue Divisional areas of Amalapuram and Chidambaram in the East Godavari and South Arcot districts, respectively.

(b) No.

(c) The Government have not limited the powers of these bodies. They have extended them in certain directions in the notifications mentioned below:—

(i) Government Notification No. 153, dated 27th April 1929, published at page 815 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 7th May 1929;

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- (ii) Notification of the Commissioner of Excise, No 11, dated 16th August 1929, published at page 1328 of Part II of the *Fort St George Gazette*, dated 27th August 1929; and
- (iii) Government Notification No. 11, dated 7th January 1930, published at page 48 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 14th January 1930.

Industries

Building for Industrial School, Bellary.

* 228 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the students and the staff of the Industrial School, Bellary, are put to serious inconveniences for lack of sufficient accommodation in their present rented quarters; and

(b) what has become of the proposal to acquire one of the military buildings in the fort for the school and the stage it has reached at present?

A.—(a) The Government are not aware that they are.

(b) The military buildings were taken over by the Industries Department on the 13th November 1930. The Industrial School will be moved into these buildings as soon as the requisite repairs and alterations have been carried out.

Fisheries

Issue price of salt supplied to fish-curers.

* 229-A Q.—MR. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the recommendations of the Fisheries Committee in regard to the reduction of the issue price of salt to fish-curers and passed any orders in the matter?

A.—The consideration of the question of reducing the issue price of salt has had to be postponed to 1932–33 owing to present financial conditions.

Training for Sub-Inspectors in charge of fish-curing yards.

* 229-B Q.—MR. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether any qualifications are prescribed under the rules for the Subordinate Fisheries Service for the Sub-Inspectors in charge of fishcuring yards;

(b) whether petty yard officers are eligible for promotion as Sub-Inspectors even though they do not possess the minimum educational qualifications prescribed for Public Service; and

(c) whether it is a fact that while training in fish-curing yards is prescribed as a qualification for petty yard officers, no such qualification is prescribed for Sub-Inspectors?

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A.—(a) Candidates for appointment as Sub-Inspectors should possess the minimum general educational qualifications.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

Disposal of the Fisheries Cannery at Chaliyam.

* 229-C Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Fisheries Cannery at Chaliyam has been disposed of ;
(b) whether offers for the purchase of cannery were received and if so what was the highest amount offered ;

(c) whether the Government contemplate leasing out the cannery to any private individual ; and

(d) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, what the conditions are on which the lease is proposed to be granted ?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Yes. The highest offer was for Rs. 16,000 from one who could not be traced at the address given by him. The next best offer was for Rs. 13,500.

(c) & (d) As the offers for the purchase of the cannery were not considered suitable, orders have been issued to lease it to M.R.Ry. M. Viswanath Avargal for a period of five years on a monthly rental of Rs. 100, subject to the following conditions :—

(i) that the lessee shall pay for the stores at the cannery which he may require for working the concern ;

(ii) that he shall afford facilities for experimental research by the Director of Fisheries or by his subordinates ; and

(iii) that he shall allow the plant and machinery to be periodically inspected during the period of the lease by such officers as may be deputed by Government or by the Director of Fisheries for the purpose.

Orders passed on the recommendations of the Fisheries Committee.

* 229-D Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to place on the table the orders of Government passed on the various recommendations of the Fisheries Committee other than those given in answer to question No. 1247, dated 24th January 1930 ?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the G.O. No. 1507, Development, dated 7th August 1930, which has been placed at the disposal of the Press. The recommendations as regards the future use of the steam boats other than the trawler have been accepted except in regard to the Lady Nicholson which it has been decided to retain for the present.

The regrading of the yard staff and the reduction of issue price of salt could not be taken up this year for financial reasons.

The cannery advertised for sale did not fetch any satisfactory offers of purchase and it has therefore been decided to lease it for five years.

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Alleged distress of fishermen on the West Coast.

* 229-E Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the fishing season on the West Coast is very bad and that the fishermen are suffering from acute distress;

(b) whether the Government have under consideration any proposals to alleviate the distress; and

(c) whether the Government have called for a report from the Director of Fisheries on the matter?

A.—(a) & (b) No.

(c) A report has been called for.

Reduction in the issue price of salt.

* 229-F Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state what the decision of the Government is in regard to the reduction in the issue price of salt as recommended by the Fisheries Committee?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to his question No. 229-A.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Police

Alleged lathi charge on a picnic party at Peddapuram.

230 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the police used a lathi charge against a picnic party on 21st December at Peddapuram, Godavari district;

(b) the circumstances under which this was done; and

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against those responsible for this?

A.—(a) & (b) The circumstances in which the police dispersed a gathering of Congress sympathisers at Peddapuram on 21st December 1930 were as follows.—

The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Cocanada, received information from the village authorities of Peddapuram that certain supporters of the civil disobedience movement had arranged to hold a meeting, under the guise of a picnic, in a garden in Peddapurkota village, just outside the area included in the orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, at which the future plan of Congress action in the East Godavari district was to be discussed and the return from jail of certain Satyagraha volunteers of that district celebrated. On arriving at the place the Deputy Superintendent of Police found a gathering of over 150 persons, the majority of whom were listening to Mr. B. Satyanarayana, Secretary,

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District Congress Committee, reading aloud from a cyclostyled pamphlet (which has since been seized by the police) indicating the lines on which future Congress operations in the district would be carried out, namely, by the boycott of British goods and of census operations, by a no-tax campaign and by wilful damage to palm trees. The Deputy Superintendent of Police being satisfied that these persons had gathered there to conspire together to concert measures tending to obstruct the administration, declared the assembly to be an unlawful assembly and ordered it to disperse. Mr. Satyanarayana however continued reading from his pamphlet and the assembly showed no signs of dispersing. After waiting for some five minutes to see whether the order to disperse would be obeyed, the Deputy Superintendent of Police requested the ladies present to withdraw, and when they had done so, ordered the dispersal of the assembly by force.

(c) They have taken no action and do not propose to do so.

Alleged lathi charge on a picnic party at Peddapuram.

231 Q.—Mr. K. KESAVA RAMAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was a lathi charge against a picnic party at Peddapuram in December last;

(b) whether any order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, had been promulgated at Peddapuram;

(c) why the police had to interfere with the Dhanurmasam picnic party at Peddapuram when it was a purely social gathering of non-political nature;

(d) what the guests were engaged in when the police entered;

(e) whether it was a fact that as soon as the orders for dispersal were given by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, the guests were attacked with lathis without giving them even a moment's time to disperse;

(f) how many people were injured and what is the nature of their injuries;

(g) whether any ladies were beaten; and if so, how many and what was the nature of their injuries;

(h) whether the doctor who was asked to go to render medical aid to the injured was also beaten; and if so, what was the nature of his injuries;

(i) whether any unoccupied cars were damaged and if so, how many and what was the nature of the damages;

(j) whether the Government propose taking any action in the matter and if so, of what nature?

A —(a), (c), (d) & (e) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 230.

(b) No.

(f) The Government have no detailed information.

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- (g) None of the ladies present was deliberately beaten, for at the request of the Deputy Superintendent of Police they withdrew before the order to disperse was given; but during the dispersal Miss P. Kameswaramma who tried to get into one of the cars accidentally received on her arm a light blow aimed at somebody else. She admitted at the time that the blow was accidental.
- (h) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 184-C.
- (i) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (1) of question No. 184-H.
- (j) No.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Bill.

A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES (AMENDMENT) ACT X OF 1930.

* Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I move for leave to introduce my Bill to amend the Madras District Municipalities (Amendment) Act X of 1930:

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Madras District Municipalities (Amendment) Act X of 1930 for the reasons hereinafter stated, it is hereby enacted as follows:

(1) *This Act may be called the Madras District Municipalities (Further Amendment) Act, 1931.*

(2) *In section 40A, delete sub-section (c) (b), and for sub-section (c) (a) read “ 4 ”.*

“ My object in introducing the above Bill is, Sir, that the provision that a chairman or vice-chairman shall be deemed to have vacated office when a motion expressing want of confidence is carried with the support of not less than two-thirds of the sanctioned strength of the council is sufficient to remove an unpopular chairman or vice-chairman from office. The provision contained in sub-section 4 (b) that the chairman or vice-chairman shall be deemed to have vacated office if two motions expressing want of confidence are carried with an interval of not less than a month even with a narrow majority of one among those present at the meeting is not conducive either to the efficiency or popularity of the municipal administration. In fact, it encourages disruption and creates an atmosphere of corruption. For this reason I request the leave of the House to introduce the Bill.”

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—“ I second the motion.”

Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo:—“ I oppose the motion.”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“ Mr. President, Sir, at this stage, I can only oppose the motion now before the House.

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The Amendment Act was put into operation only in August and as such there has not been much time or opportunity to observe how this particular section has worked, whether it has worked satisfactorily or not. The proposed amendment seeks to oust a chairman or vice-chairman from office only when the motion has the support of two-thirds of the sanctioned strength of the council. Any way, it is too early to have any amendment unless the Amendment Act is in operation for some time longer."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is that leave be granted to Mr. C. Kolanda Reddi to introduce a Bill to amend the Madras District Municipalities (Amendment) Act X of 1930."

The motion was lost.

III.—RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, with your permission, I propose that resolutions 1 to 13 in the list of resolutions be postponed until after resolution No. 14 has been disposed of."

Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

* Mr. C. INDRAIAH CHOUDARI:—"Mr. President, I move the resolution standing in my name:

'This Council recommends to the Government that the recommendations of the Economic Enquiry Committee constituted as per G.O. No. 385, dated 23rd February 1929, be accepted and put into force immediately and the proposals for the enhancement of assessments should not be given effect to in the districts of Godavari West, Godavari East and Kistna.'

"In moving the above resolution, I have to state a few facts for the information of this House. The last resettlement took place in these three districts in the year 1899; and as resettlement is only made every thirty years, it was due in the year 1929. Preliminary to the resettlement, the economic and the agricultural conditions of these districts had to be surveyed. Accordingly Mr. B. G. Holdsworth was appointed as Special Settlement Officer with a view to make a survey of the economic conditions of these districts. Aided by a special staff, he made a survey of the economic conditions in these three districts and submitted his report to Government. Sir, at the instance of Mr. D. Narayana Raju, an ex-Member of this Council, a resolution was passed by this Council urging the appointment of a committee for investigating into the economic conditions of these districts and recommending that pending that enquiry the resettlement proposals should be kept in abeyance. That was on the 28th November 1928. In pursuance of the resolution

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passed by this House, a Committee was appointed consisting of seven Members of this hon. House and they were:

Mr. B. Venkataratnam,
Mr. D. Narayana Raju,
Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai,
Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu,
Mr. K. V. R. Swami,

Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi, and
Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar,

the last named being the President of the committee. In pursuance of G.O. No. 385, the committee entered upon its labours in the month of April 1929 and within the limited time at their disposal, the members of the committee toured through these districts a number of times, studied conditions both economic and agricultural and collected firsthand evidence after examining a number of witnesses. They based their report on the material they had thus collected and they drafted and submitted their report to the Government. The committee have pointed out that the report of the Special Officer was superficial and faulty in several respects. Errors have been pointed out and borne out by facts and figures and by citation of authorities. The Special Settlement Officer has not taken into consideration several important factors in his report. He has not, for instance, taken note of the rise in wages, rise in the cost of agricultural implements, cattle and several other things. The officer's report is to a large extent based on the information furnished by the village karnams and other village officers. It has not been based on direct evidence. No provision was made in the report of the officer for the subsistence of the farmer. No allowance was made for losses on account of the destruction of crops by pests. The pests destroyed one-eighth of the produce in normal years and in bad years nearly a quarter of the produce has fallen a prey to their depredations. The allowances made by the Special Officer under the head 'Vicissitudes of Season and Uncultivable areas' are hardly adequate and there are also several important omissions. The Special Officer has failed to take notice of the cost of agricultural improvements and expenses incurred annually in connexion therewith. His report is based on a system of averages and it is often misleading and inaccurate.

"The various errors in the Special Settlement Officer's report have been exhaustively pointed out by the members of the Economic Enquiry Committee and I do not like to repeat here what has been pointed out by the members in their report. The report of the committee is thorough and exhaustive in all its aspects. This report was submitted to the Government by the members of the committee and the Government in its turn forwarded this report to the Board of Revenue which in its turn forwarded it to the Special Settlement Officer for his remarks. We find and it is but natural that he upholds the findings of his report and he finds fault with the various findings of the Economic Enquiry Committee. The Board of Revenue in its Proceedings No. 2820,

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dated the 29th September 1930, examines the report paragraph by paragraph and sums up its observations at page 12 by saying: 'It is the emphatic opinion of the Board that the proposals in the scheme report are based on sound grounds and that there is every justification for introducing the rates proposed therein without further delay'. The question is whether there is any justification under the present economic conditions for introducing the new rates proposed by the Special Settlement Officer. The Settlement Officer proposed an enhancement of 18½ per cent over the existing rates. If we take into consideration the existing condition of the ryots at present we see all round there is economic depression and the prices of agricultural products have fallen down considerably by more than 50 per cent. The rental values have also fallen down and wherever we go we see the economic indebtedness of the ryot who is mostly in want. There is also distress among the agricultural classes and the existing conditions of the ryot do not warrant any justification for introducing the new rates now. That the economic condition of the ryots is bad is borne out by the observations made by His Excellency in his opening speech on the 18th November in his address to this Council. I would like to repeat the observations of His Excellency on this occasion: His Excellency says:

'The first is the world-wide trade depression which has accompanied a rapid fall in wholesale prices and particularly in prices of agricultural and other primary products.'

"Later on he observes:

'It is to be feared that this fall will continue probably in an increasing degree, for although political conditions may have improved, the effects of the fall in prices of agricultural produce have yet to be experienced in their greatest intensity owing to the fact that the fall has occurred very largely subsequent to the marketing of the last harvests, and we have therefore to face the possibility that the agricultural population will only experience the worst of the depression when the time comes to harvest the crops which are now on the ground.'

"So it is clear that the present conditions of the ryots do not justify the introduction of these new rates at this stage. It is the ryot population that forms the backbone of the country and on the prosperity of the ryots depends the prosperity of the country and therefore it is the duty of the Government to see to the welfare and prosperity of the agricultural population. The ryots are already overburdened with the taxation of the previous settlement when there was an enhancement of thirty per cent and the ryots now are not in a position to pay even the existing kists. With these remarks I formally move the resolution."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I second it."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I propose the amendment standing in my name which runs as follows:—

'For all the words after the word "Government" in line 1 substitute the words "that, with reference to the recommendations of the Economic Enquiry Committee, the proposed resettlement in Kistna, and East and West Godavari districts, be not given effect to".'

"Mr. President, I must ask your indulgence, Sir, and the indulgence of this House to the remarks that I shall have to make to rebut the

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many statements, remarks and opinions advanced by the Special Settlement Officer in his note, dated the 11th April 1930, criticizing the report of the Economic Enquiry Committee. This note, Sir, you will observe covers practically 50 printed foolscap pages and it is necessary, Sir, that I should take this opportunity, possibly the only opportunity the House will have of rebutting the many remarks and arguments advanced by the Special Settlement Officer and by the Board of Revenue in the note that I have referred to. I shall not, however, Sir, take up the time of the House by referring unnecessarily to all the points that have already been dealt with by the Economic Enquiry Committee in its report and I shall confine myself as far as possible to dealing with particular remarks of the Special Settlement Officer in the note that I have referred to and to other cardinal and important points so as to illustrate the arguments that we have already advanced and to rebut the arguments of the Special Settlement Officer and the Board of Revenue. I shall not refer in detail to the principles of the settlement. These have already been explained in the committee's report. But there is one point, Sir, that I must lay special emphasis on. Considering the manner in which settlements are made there is no provision specifically made for the maintenance of the cultivator in calculating the cost of cultivation. As I have already stated, Sir, I shall have to ask your indulgence for taking up your time and the time of the House for a considerable time. I, therefore, ask for your special permission to enable me to do so. I would draw pointed attention, Sir, to paragraph 13 of the committee's report wherein some of the elements that led to the untrustworthiness of the results arrived at in settlement calculations is explained. Mr. Srinivasa Raghava Ayyangar writes:

'The Madras Settlement Operations, though conducted under elaborate rules resolve themselves in the final result into the simple method adopted in Bombay, firstly, because the minute and extended enquiries which they involve are in most cases impossible to carry out and have frequently been dispensed with; secondly, because none of the data on which reliance has to be placed, such as prices of food grains in former years, are perfectly trustworthy and in some cases information regarding the quotations of prices in the ryots' selling months for the old years are entirely wanting, and thirdly, because the determination of the rates of assessment with reference to a large number of factors, slight errors in regard to which might seriously vitiate the total result, is apt to make the assessments excessive.'

"Then again, Sir, with reference to the question of the maintenance of the cultivator I have already said that in settlements no specific allowance is made for it. Mr. Peddar (vide paragraph 14 of the Economic Enquiry Committee's report) says as follows: 'In the first place the difficulty of determining with accuracy the average yield of land is great; next, the only way of finding the average cost of cultivation is to ascertain what it would cost to cultivate a given holding by hired labour, and as this labour would be needed only for a certain number of weeks, or months, it is obvious that nothing would be allowed as wage for the subsistence of the cultivator and his family during the rest of the year. As the House is aware, Sir, in settlement calculations Government takes half the net. That is after calculating the gross outturn certain deductions are made and the net outturn is calculated at what they call the commutation price and half the net is taken by

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the State. The ryot is supposed to live on the other half. I may point out this. The Settlement Officers did not care and did not consider whether the ryot can live on the half and my point is that if Government is actuated by the humane policy that is laid down by the Government of India, it is necessary that in matters of settlement provision should be made for the maintenance of the cultivator. Now the Government takes half and says, 'live on the other half if you can'. It practically comes to that.

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"As a matter of fact, Sir, the Settlement Officer in paragraph 4 of his note, page 15, says that the Government's half share is a constantly decreasing fraction of the net, while the half balance that is left is a constantly increasing factor. Of course, this is begging the whole question. I think he is not right in making such a statement in the very beginning, and I hope, as I proceed, to be able to prove that this remark is entirely wrong. He also says that it is unnecessary for him to embark on calculations of such a very debatable point as the expenses of cultivation. It is no surprise to me, Sir, that he did not choose to go into the details of this very important question, for if he had done so, he would have been forced to come to conclusions very unfavourable to the resettlement proposals altogether.

"Then, turning to his remarks in paragraph 4 of his note, page 16, he refers to questions of standard outturn, and I shall refer briefly to that question. But, before proceeding, Sir, I shall deal with the question of the allowances made for the vicissitudes of the seasons and so forth. Considering firstly the question of rainfall, the Settlement Officer has stated that the committee has chosen the period 1890 to 1899, and he wonders why a later period has not been taken into consideration. The fact is, as the committee has pointed out, that the general characteristics of rainfall during any of these periods have not changed either in point of totals or of its distribution; so that for the reason that the committee pointed out, it did not matter a bit what period of ten years it took up for detailed consideration. It so happened that they had to take up the question of dealing with the rainfall at the last moment, and the committee had no details before them at the time for other periods. However, for the reason explained, it does not matter a bit what period was taken at all. The Settlement Officer has given no reasons to rebut the arguments advanced by the committee that a detailed consideration of the incidence of rainfall during this ten-year period shows that five years were bad and that even during the other years owing to the bad distribution of rainfall the conditions were not favourable. For instance, during a part of a year there was drought, and in another part of the year there was very heavy rainfall, so that if you consider the totality of the rainfall, the features of distribution that affect cultivation are not at all brought out. So, I think the Settlement Officer has made out no case at all against the arguments of the committee. I do not think I need take notice of the remarks that he has made about the year 1924 as the year in which they made calculations about standard outturn; because if they did, I find there are two points about the year 1924. There were fairly heavy rains in the delta in October 1924, but there were no upland floods. The other fact that has

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to be taken into consideration is this: during the year 1924, which was the year before the last settlement was made, the extent of cultivation in the delta was so small that the low areas bordering the drains were not then under cultivation, with the result that even if you had heavy rains—as pointed out by the Special Settlement Officer in regard to 1894 when there was heavy rain—cultivation would not have been damaged at all.

“ With reference to the remark of the committee that no allowance was made under cultivation expenses for loss due to delay in transplantation, the Settlement Officer passes over the figures that we have given for these delays in transplantation, which are inevitable in the deltas on account of the present state of water-supply. We have quoted figures from Government's own statistics to prove that transplantation is not done in six weeks after the commencement of freshes, as is made out by the Chief Engineer in his note. It never takes place in six weeks. We have quoted figures to show that not only transplantation is not completed by August, but as I will show later on under irrigation, a considerable area is actually transplanted in the month of September and sometimes a small part is also transplanted in October. It is certainly the universal opinion among ryots that the best produce is obtained if transplantation is made in June with clear water, which seldom takes place; and although very small areas are transplanted in June, the bulk of transplantation takes place in the months of July and August. The belief of the ryots is that every month's delay in transplantation would mean a loss of about two bags of paddy per acre. Our figures are based upon extended enquiries. As you are aware, Sir, everywhere we went into the deltas, we asked the ryots about their estimates, and what we have given in the report as the loss due to delay in transplantation has been based upon our enquiry. The Special Settlement Officer in his note says that this is worth nothing. It is worth this: It shows that Government have nothing to produce against our statement. You know, Sir, and those who come from the deltas know, the scramble for water when it comes. For instance, as soon as water is let into the deltas, the ryots clamour for water. The supply is inadequate to meet the requirements of transplantation. Channel banks are cut and pipes are removed and thrown away, and ryots are in very great hurry to finish transplantation as soon as possible, because of the belief that the earlier the transplantation is completed the greater the yield. On the figures that we have furnished, we calculated that the loss of crop on account of delay in transplantation would alone amount to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the normal outturn. The House is aware that the allowance in the deltas for vicissitudes of seasons is only about 10 per cent, whereas this one item alone would mean a loss of $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

“ Then, we have referred in our report to the loss due to insect and other pests. We have produced our authorities. Government have got nothing to say against it. They simply pass over it and say that it is covered by the general allowance. Take the case of the rat pest, on which the ryots incur a large expenditure on the destruction of rats. We have given figures there for work in connexion with these and other

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pests. The point is that neither in the cultivation expenses schedule nor anywhere else in the matter of deductions have Settlement Officers made by any deduction for losses due to the several kinds of pests.

“Then, Sir, the Committee has also pointed out that there are very extensive areas of what the Revenue Department calls ‘current fallows’ in all these districts. The Special Officer says that our figures are not quite correct and that we have included certain zamindari areas. I find that we have actually made some mistake. But the mistake would only affect our figures to the extent of one-third. Now, Sir, we have claimed that the total extent of current fallows in the three districts would be a little over six lakhs of acres. Supposing, Sir, we deduct one-third, which I find is about the figure for the zamindari areas wrongly included—we are not responsible for the mistake pointed out by the Settlement Officer as we followed Benson’s Statistical Atlas—it will still leave about four lakhs of acres. As we have pointed out, the Government is collecting about a rupee an acre of these current fallows. It means that on all these areas on which the ryots get absolutely nothing, the Government is making a profit of Rs. 4 lakhs. Now, this kind of current fallows has been referred to previously also by other people who had to deal with the question. For instance, Mr. Srinivasaraghava Ayyangar in his memorandum, from which we have frequently quoted in our report, has already referred to the question of current fallows. So far as I can see, the Government has taken no action on this matter. If only they would make deductions under vicissitudes of the season for this item, it means Government will have to make such a reduction in rates as will compensate for the loss to the ryot to the extent of Rs. 4 lakhs a year. The Special Officer, as a criticism of our remarks concerning current fallows, says that the ryot had some profit by grass, trees and so forth. Of course, we know very well, and my hon. Friends from the Circars know particularly well, that on most of these areas nothing will grow, and it is for this reason that the ryot leaves it fallow, so that in a year or two the land might acquire some fertility. These are lands on which the ryot cannot raise a crop every year. He leaves them to lie fallow so that they can acquire some fertility. Now, Sir, to say that the ryot grows trees and gets grass from these lands is absurd in my opinion as the Director of Agriculture says in another connection. My point, Sir, is that on account of the fact that the Government do not take into account these current fallows, and have failed to provide for this in the settlement calculations under ‘uncultivable areas’, their ‘deductions’ are totally inadequate.

“Another important point mentioned in the Committee’s report is that, instead of following the humane policy laid down by the Government of India with reference to the question of ryots’ improvements and granting necessary and suitable abatements either in the way of deferring collection of revenue or of collecting only favourable rates from such ryots, the Government ignore the fact that a ryot who brings his land under cultivation must necessarily have incurred a fairly large

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amount of capital expenditure. To illustrate my point I shall only refer to the Muniyeru area, although of course I can refer to many other instances. The Muniyeru area has undulating ups and downs and in bringing the lands there under cultivation the ryots have incurred a considerable amount of capital expenditure. Now, the question, Sir, is this. Do or do not these cases of improvement come under the pronouncement of the Government of India? I feel sure that it was the intention of the Government of India that these improvements—in fact all improvements to bring lands under cultivation or to improve their irrigability and so on on which the ryot has had to incur capital expenditure—must be given such consideration as will enable him to recoup the expenditure that he has incurred from the produce of a certain number of years for which he gets a rebate. In fact, in one of the despatches it has been stated that these rebates should be so proportioned that the ryots may be enabled in a number of years, say three, four or five, to recoup the capital expenditure they have incurred. But, Sir, at the hands of this Government, that matter has so far received no consideration. Take for instance the 'parra' lands in the Godavari. Extensive areas have been brought under wet cultivation there since the last resettlement. Now, these lands cannot be brought under cultivation until they are bunded. You have got to shut out the salt water. You have got to prevent them being submerged on account of the high water in the drains adjoining. All these mean a considerable amount of expenditure in bunding. Then, Sir, take the case of the lands which are not irrigable. It may be that they are about a couple of feet above the commandable level of the channel. The ryot lowers his lands in order to bring them under cultivation. At that stage you cannot turn round and say: 'You have done this on your own account. We are only collecting the usual assesment.' I think it is only fair, in consideration of the views expressed by the Government of India and on general considerations of fairness that a rebate in some form or other, either in the way of a deduction in cultivation expenses or a rebate of assessment for a few years or in some other form, should be given to the ryot for his improvements. I think the House will agree with me that it is perfectly fair that it should be done.

"Sir, I have already referred to the question of delay in transplantation. Hon. Members who come from the districts I am referring to, are aware of the fact that during the irrigation season, practically year after year, enormous volumes of water go to waste into the sea as the canals are in a position only to take up a certain quantity of water. I have shown that this quantity is certainly not enough to meet the demands. Of course the Government have fixed certain standards. But my point is that, in view of the fact particularly that cultivation has been expanding enormously since the days when the canals were originally built, these supplies and these standards are inadequate to meet the present demands. As I have already shown, for this reason, particularly in the years when the rainfall is inadequate in the early

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part of the season, there is a tremendous scramble for water, and the ryots everywhere believe that on account of the present inadequacy of water for transplantation purposes, they are incurring losses which can be avoided. I too think, Sir, that these losses can be avoided; because, I believe that with a very small expenditure, much more water now going down into the sea can be turned into the canals and given to the ryots.

“ The Committee has remarked, Sir, that while it considers that generally the supplies in the Godavari Central and Eastern deltas are satisfactory, the conditions of supply in the Godavari Western delta are certainly unsatisfactory. And I think, Sir, that it will be impossible to controvert that statement. I find here that the Chief Engineer referring to the question of supplies to the first crop season in Godavari Western delta has stated that in some years the Rallamadugu and Yerracalva will supplement the canal supplies. I think the remark is absurd, perfectly absurd. If the ryots are to depend upon the water carried down by upland streams like Rallamadugu and Yerracalva, I think the Government can close down their irrigation system altogether. But apart from that I think it must appeal to every man of commonsense that these comparatively small streams cannot bring down any appreciable quantity of water to supply irrigation to such an enormous area as the one now under cultivation in the Godavari Western delta. These streams are notoriously precarious in their supplies. Even after the floods, the next day they are empty and certainly, Sir, you do not expect the ryots to be satisfied with water from jungle streams that run to-day, but are dry to-morrow. I think, Sir, as I said, that the statistics collected of the existing duties during the early months of the year prove conclusively that the supplies are inadequate, and I think, no man, not even the Chief Engineer, can dare to say that these figures show that the supply is adequate, as he tries to make out that the duty in July was 90. By statistics of discharges obtained from the Public Works Department, the Committee has proved in August 82, and in September 85 whereas the ordinary duty taken for non-transplantation purposes is 70. How can they argue that even 70 is sufficient for transplantation purposes. Of course, I am speaking as an old Public Works Department officer. It is usual to speak of two kinds of supplies, the ‘full’ supply and what we call the ‘maximum capacity’ supply. In extraordinary times we do not stick to the ordinary supplies. We allow much more than the full supplies. Of course it may be that in these cases it is not possible to do so, but that is exactly the point the Committee has made. They ask whether it is not possible to make the canals capable of carrying excess supplies so that transplantation may not be delayed and the ryots made safe from the loss that they are now incurring on account of the delay in transplantation.

“ The Committee has also remarked that although higher shutters, six feet shutters, have been installed on the Kistna anicut, in the year 1925 I think, the state of supply, from the figures furnished to us by

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the Executive Engineer of the division shows that it is not altogether quite satisfactory. Of course it is not as bad as in the Godavari Western delta ; so that we have indicated that the matter may be examined, because, Sir, speaking from personal knowledge, I know that there is very great difficulty in making the Eastern delta head sluices of the Kistna carry more water. I leave it at that in the hope that the Government will enquire into that also.

"Then, Sir, the Committee has referred to the question of the inadequate capacity of the drains. I need not repeat the details as the Committee has already noted in the report concerning the method adopted for designing these drains. They calculate the maximum rainfall in 24 hours, divide it by six, calculating the sections for one-sixth rainfall and then take a third of this section as what they call 'a tentative section'. Now, I appeal to the commonsense of the House, of course I am speaking as an Engineer myself, whether such a thing is likely to be satisfactory. It was excusable in the old days as a tentative measure. It has always been called 'a tentative section', because in the old days the low areas adjoining the drains were not under cultivation. But now, Sir, every acre, every cent of land has been brought under cultivation. You are deriving revenue from them. With regard to them, all that we are asking is that the original methods adopted for designing the drains may be reconsidered. In reply the Chief Engineer writes that the observations made in regard to the Gonteru drain in the Godavari Western delta show clearly that no improvements are required. I wish that he gave some more information on the point. Supposing that in the Gonteru drain the state of things is found to be satisfactory ; it does not follow that that is the case in all other drains. Then he goes on to give an explanation of 'the tentative sections' and concludes by saying that certain low areas are affected here and there. Well I do not know what he means by 'here and there'. I think it may be much more than 'here and there'. He says again: 'But on the whole, there is no submersion on a large scale for such periods as are likely to injure the paddy crops.' But our enquiries everywhere in the villages showed that in the case of all villages adjoining these drains there is submersion and damage. In fact, Sir, the point was clearly recognized by Mr. Clarke in the last resettlement report, where he refers to the unsatisfactory character of the drains. Now, what has the Government done since the last resettlement? It has carried out certain improvements, I have no doubt, and we have stated so in our report. But the point is that the methods adopted for designing these drains have not been changed up-to-date. I cannot fancy how by any manner of means drains, which were calculated to take not more than one-eighteenth of the flood discharge, could discharge the latter without a considerable amount of damage.

"Then, Sir, the Chief Engineer goes on and says: The fixing of the second crop zone has solved many of the difficulties referred to and if the ryots will take advantage of the rotation system of closure of channels for second crop and concentrate the area cultivated in that

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season, the difficulties as regards soakage in contiguous lands will be removed'. It is all very nice for the Government to say that 'if the ryots will take advantage . . . , etc., for second crop' and so on. But that is not what the ryot wants. Unless it was proved that the land was so situated that first crop cultivation was impossible, he always prefers first crop. So it is no solution to say that if your lands are damaged in the first crop season, we will transfer it into second crop zone and so on.

"Then, Sir, the Committee raised the question of the upland drainage. As you are aware, Sir—you were a distinguished Member of the Committee yourself—considerable areas of uplands drain into the delta. Some very big streams—in fact they must be called rivers—run into the delta and discharge their floods before the water runs into the sea. Before I take up the Yerracalava, I shall quote what the Chief Engineer says about delta drains. He states 'The tentative section adopted for clearance is with a view to prevent silting during times of low flow which occurs for long periods, while the flood flow which occasionally occurs during rains spills freely on both sides and is fairly rapidly discharged into the sea'. The Chief Engineer says 'fairly rapidly into the sea'. I do not know what is meant by fairly rapidly. We want them to discharge rapidly and not fairly rapidly. As I pointed out, these drains on account of their designs cannot discharge their water rapidly; and then with regard to 'spilling freely on both sides', which is claimed as a merit by the Chief Engineer, may I say that this is the very thing the ryots object to. There is too much freedom in spilling, and not enough flow into the sea. But with reference to the Yerracalava I will read the Chief Engineer's remarks. He says: 'The floods due to Yerracalava are disposed of by the Yenamadurru drain which has been improved recently at a cost of 10 lakhs. A regulator will have to be constructed for shutting out the floods from entering the Venkayya and Weyyeru canal and when this is done, there will be no difficulty as regards Yerracalava floods doing damage to the delta'. I am not prepared to accept this statement, Sir, because, the remarks that he makes have not been made as a result of careful enquiries made in these very areas. The improvements of the Yenamanadurru drain only touch the lower parts of the drain and I do not see how the upper part of the drain and the area that will be damaged by it will be benefited by the improvement of the lower part of the drain. But the point is the Government have not chosen to place all their cards on the table of the House so that we may say whether certain improvements which have been carried to the Yanamadurru drain have been carried out in such a way as to make the drain discharge its floods into the sea without any damage to the delta. I should like to see what are the calculations that have been adopted in the case of the upland floods, and what is the flood volume that is allowed into the delta. If that information had been given we should have been in a position to know whether the widening of the Yenamadurru drain was really going to meet the difficulty.

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"To save time I must omit the minor remarks and objections of the Settlement Officer. For instance his remarks with reference to cultivation and population are not very material. There is one point however under communications that I must refer to. The Committee pointed out that Mr. Srinivasaraghava Ayyangar in his memorandum noted that the cess that was collected for roads was intended to come out of the Government's share of half the net. He said that it was not intended that it should be taken out of the ryots' share. This statement made about 1890 has remained unchallenged up-to-date. Now the Settlement Officer calls Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar's remarks a 'historical error' and so on. I should like to know why if the statement he made was wrong, the Government have left it unchallenged for so many years. Mr. Ayyangar's book was published under the authority of Government. Government has not chosen to place all the correspondence and the papers relating to this subject on the table of the House. I shall say nothing more on this matter and I leave it at that.

"Then, Sir, coming to the agricultural statistics, I will omit unimportant points. But the Committee after calculating the general details which are furnished in the report came to the conclusion that the supply of fodder was totally inadequate. It has to refer to this question for this one very important reason: the House is aware that in settlement calculations for the cost of cultivation the Settlement Officers have orders not to make any provision for fodder for cattle. The argument is that as Government does not put on the profit side the value of fodder produced it does not want to provide for fodder on the expenditure side. But the case assumes a different aspect if once—as the Committee has succeeded in proving and I shall show presently that the Government have not rebutted the argument—it is proved that the supply of fodder is so totally insufficient that the ryot not only in the matter of dry fodder but also in the matter of concentrated food has to incur additional expenditure. I shall come later to the question of concentrated food, but now I shall deal with the question of dry fodder alone or green fodder. The figures with reference to these are somewhat as follows:—The areas under cultivation throughout these districts—I mean the areas with which the Settlement Parties were concerned and not the zamindari and other areas—are somewhere about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million acres. But the Committee took 1,500 lb. as the outturn of fodder on an average for all kinds of cultivation. If you turn to the note furnished by the Director of Agriculture you will find that there are three classes, i.e., (1) the paddy area in the first and the second crop, (2) the area under cereals, and (3) the area under pulses. The Committee has taken on an average about 1,500 lb. as the yield per acre; but the Director of Agriculture takes 2,240 lb. in the case of paddy, half of that amount in the case of cereals and one-fourth of that amount in the case of pulses.

"On these principles the Committee's estimates of the amount of fodder available in the Kistna and West Godavari districts are 1,400 million lb. The Director's estimate is 1,192 million lb. So there

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is not much difference between these two estimates. The Settlement Officer's estimate is about 1,250 million lb. Our estimates of the supply available in the Kistna and West Godavari districts were 675 million lb. The estimate of the Director of Agriculture is 909 million lb. As against these officers' estimates, the Committee's estimates of the requirements of cattle are 9,000 million lb. The Committee took 15,000 lb. as the fodder requirements per head per annum; whereas the Settlement Officer and the Board take it as 5,600 lb. per head per annum. Our estimates were based on the figures we found in the agricultural handbook published by one of the former Directors of Agriculture. Therein are shown the figures—as found by actual experience—regarding the quantity required for feeding cattle at Saidapet and Coimbatore. This estimate for Saidapet is about 100 lb. of dry fodder per day for a pair of cattle in addition to concentrated foods; i.e., 50 lb. per day per unit. The Coimbatore figure is also the same. I would invite reference to pages 101 and 102 of the Agricultural Handbook. At the rate of 100 lb. per day, it means 36,000 lb. per annum for a pair or 18,000 lb. per cattle unit. But we have taken 15,000 lb. as the requirements per annum for a cattle unit. The Settlement Officer adopts the figure furnished by the Director of Agriculture, i.e., 5,600 lb. as the requirements of dry fodder. Most of the ryots are accustomed to extra feeding of the cattle in addition besides dry fodder. I am inclined to believe that the Director's estimate of 5,600 lb. of dry fodder is exclusive of concentrated foods; because I cannot imagine, Sir, that it would be possible to feed a bull, for instance, at 5,600 lb. of dry fodder per annum. So I still think that the Committee's estimates of requirements for the Kistna and West Godavari districts of 9,000 million lb. are perfectly accurate. If we adopt the Committee's estimate of supply available, the quantity that is actually available is one-sixth of the quantity that is required for cattle feeding. Similar remarks would apply to the corresponding figures with regard to East Godavari district which I have referred to already. Of course I was referring to the total inadequacy of the fodder available. If the total fodder supply available is so inadequate as the Committee admits, the ryot has to incur expenditure necessarily on fodder. The Settlement Officer has referred in his remarks to green fodder, apart from cereals, pulses, etc., which have already been taken into consideration. He refers, for instance, to sun-hemp and green fodder, etc. I do not think that the Government can claim any credit for these figures, because the ryot has to incur expenditure on seeds, harvest, and conveyance for which he gets no return. It means expenditure for him and he gets no return out of them. Because the supply of other fodder is not adequate, the ryot has to incur further expenditure for green fodder. This expenditure must come as an item of cultivation expenses rather than as an item of his income.

“It is a surprise to me that the Settlement Officer has repeated the remarks that are found in the original settlement report, viz., that it is a matter of common knowledge that the ryot never gives any extra feeding. I am thoroughly surprised that an experienced Revenue Officer who

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must have come into contact with ryots in many villages for years, should make such a statement, that the ryot does not incur any expenditure on extra fodder. You can ask any ryot; he will give you the correct information. Working animals can never work without extra fodder. You cannot feed a pair of working bulls on paddy straw only when they have to work strenuously for three or four months at least. I am sure that those acquainted with the condition of the deltas are aware of the amount of hard work cattle are put to during this short period. As a matter of fact cattle are not able to stand the strain of this hard work and many cattle die on account of hard work. Very often, in spite of extra feeding cattle become so useless that they have to be disposed of at the end of the transplantation season. This is the universal practice. It is inevitable that the ryot should give extra feeding; so he must be given credit for this expenditure in the schedule of cultivation expenses. The Settlement Officer says that the yield of fodder is quite sufficient to feed his cattle so that it is not necessary that any allowance should be made for cattle feeding.

"I shall now refer to the remarks of the Settlement Officer on the question of land values."

IV.—ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIES.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have to announce that, out of the three duly nominated candidates for election to the Board of Industries, Mr. H. M. Jagannatham has withdrawn his candidature and that the remaining two candidates, viz., Mr. Yakub Hasan and the Zamindar of Mirzapuram have been declared duly elected."

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After lunch (2-30 p.m.)

III.—RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST—*cont.*

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC ENQUIRY COMMITTEE—*cont.*

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Diwan Bahadur Arogyaswami Mudaliyar will now resume his speech. I hope the hon. Member will try to make his speech as short as possible."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I shall do my best, Sir.

"Concerning the standard outturn, Sir, the Committee's contention is that it is practically impossible to get an authoritative set of details to establish conclusively what the standard of proper outturn is in various classes of lands, in various localities, in various seasons, in various years, and so forth. I would draw the attention of the House to the remarks quoted by Sir Arthur Colvin regarding the North-West Provinces settlement, wherein the Settlement Officer has shown conclusively that

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following the methods ordinarily adopted, it was impossible to arrive at a set of authoritative data. I won't press that matter further, Sir; I would leave it at that.

"The Settlement Officer in his remarks on the Committee's report quotes the Land Acquisition Officer's figures or statements made to him by ryots as to outturns. Without a detailed examination, I am not in a position to offer any remarks thereon; but on the face of it, Sir, these outturns look absurd. You cannot get thirty bags an acre even at Samalkot, where irrigation is carried on under the most ideal conditions possible. I do not think they can ever get there an outturn of more than twenty-two bags per acre. I think the figures of the Land Acquisition Officer quoted, are worth nothing.

"Concerning land values, Sir, the Government case is that there has been a steady and large increase in land values since the period of the last resettlement. In this connexion, Sir, I would draw the attention of the House to the remarks made by the Special Commissioners appointed by the Government of Bombay to examine the resettlement proposals of Mr. Jayakar with reference to the Bardoli and Chorasi taluks. They are contained in paragraph 100 of the Committee's report, and I need not read them out to the House. The Committee has also dealt with the fact that a mere enumeration of land values as taken from documents is worth nothing, as has been pointed out in the case of the Bardoli resettlement. There are so many factors affecting land values, that unless the documents are examined in the presence of the ryots and the several circumstances affecting the prices are gone into in detail, the mere enumeration of land values is worth nothing. In fact, that is the very wording of the Bombay Commissioners. The Committee however is aware that on the whole land values have gone up. Therefore, it is not a matter for surprise that, considering the series of boom years that we have gone through following the war when prices of paddy went up by leaps and bounds—prices going up even to about 300 per cent over the previous resettlement rates—land values also should have gone up. But to apply land values obtained in a year of boom price of paddy as an argument for increasing the rates in resettlement and for determining the rates for a period of thirty years to follow hereafter is, I think, absurd. There is no chance or probability—and certainly not a certainty—that these high prices will obtain any longer. In fact, the Committee in the course of its enquiries found that in many cases land values have dropped with the dropping prices and in many other cases, land was awaiting sale and there were no buyers.

"Similar remarks, Sir, apply to the conclusions drawn by the Special Settlement Officer in his enumeration of lease values. A mere enumeration of lease values taken from documents means nothing at all. As I say, the remarks that I made concerning land values apply equally to these, because there are so many varying factors entering into these leases determining the lease amounts, that unless these leases and the conditions pertaining to them are examined in detail in the villages and the villagers are questioned

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concerning these, no conclusions regarding returns from lands can be drawn. The Committee, in paragraph 110 of Volume I of its report, has called attention to the remarks of the Commissioners of Bombay, Messrs. Broomsfield and Maxwell, concerning the Bardoli resettlement. The Commissioners came to the conclusion that the Settlement Officer Mr. Jayakar's lease figures were absolutely unreliable; and just as in the case of Madras, Mr. Jayakar has contented himself with a mere enumeration of lease values without considering the varying factors that affect them, to which I have just now referred, and on which the Committee lays special emphasis in the report. In fact the Special Settlement Officer appears to be under a confusion between lease values and rentals. As remarked by Mr. Anderson, the Settlement Commissioner of Bombay—and this is the thing on which the Bombay Government are basing their actions—'Rental value is a sublimation or abstraction from actual rents of all sorts.' Rental value is not equivalent to lease value, and I think, Sir, the Settlement Officer has made a fundamental mistake in taking lease values as equivalent to rental values.

"Then, Sir, as to the point that these lease values give an indication of the profits of cultivation, may I point out that the practice in the deltas is not to lease lands as a rule? It is only a very small fraction of the delta area that is leased at all; and in fact, the Settlement Officer himself, in the original settlement report at page 49 says: 'the ryots of these districts mostly do their own cultivation, and it is as a rule only the Brahman, female and absentee owners that lease their lands.' In fact, as admitted by the Settlement Officer, leasing is rather a small exception than the rule, and it will be absurd for the Government to claim to draw any conclusions from these unusual conditions of leasing in regard to outturns and profits. As I say, even the treatment of 'leases' by the Settlement Officer is inconclusive and unsatisfactory.

"Concerning the lessees themselves, Sir, it is interesting to consider that point; because the Committee found that the people who generally take lands on lease are Adi-Andhras, Thurpu Kapus and Setti Baligas. The reason is obvious. In the case of the ordinary agriculturists of those parts, it is only the male members of the family who do either the supervision work or, if they are very poor, work themselves in the fields and their womenkind and children do not do any work at all; whereas, in the case of the classes I have just mentioned, they take up leases and all the members of the family work in the fields. So that, while these leases do not pay the ordinary agriculturists sufficiently, they sometimes pay these poor class people who take lands on leases.

"Then again, Sir, there are various kinds of leases, and I do not want to go into an enumeration of them because the Committee has dealt with them very fully in its report. But the one important point that came out in the course of the enquiries was that the lease amounts were never recovered in full. In fact there were large arrears or debts which were either postponed or not recovered at all. May I call your attention, Sir, to the enquiries that were made at Dommeru where one

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of the big landlords produced to us bundles of sheets of lease bonds which were absolutely useless? He showed us lease after lease, the amounts in which he could not recover. Some of them he had thrown away, and he also told us—and the fact came out at every place during our enquiries—that it is not uncommon among these landlords to enter in the lease bonds amounts higher than the actual amounts which could be recovered. All such lease bonds can therefore be called fictitious. The reason is—and in fact one gentleman actually told us—that the landlord thinks that if the present lessee is not satisfactory, he may get some other man possibly to take it up for a higher figure or something like that. But anyhow, the fact came out that many of these lease bonds were fictitious and that the amounts entered in them were not the actual amounts recovered from the lessees.

“Then, Sir, the fact that the leasing system is now gradually dropping out and the sharing system, i.e., the system of the landlord and the ryot taking half and half of the produce is coming largely into vogue, is a certain indication that the profits of cultivation are going down with the fall in prices.

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“I am not in a position to offer any remarks in connexion with the land acquisition cases, because it requires a detailed examination and I should not be surprised if on a detailed enquiry into the question it is shown that many of the leases are fictitious and that higher figures are put than the actuals. I therefore refrain from making any remarks because I am not in a position to make a detailed examination of this.

“Then, Sir, I come to the important question of commutation prices, because the fixing of the resettlement rates to a large extent depends upon the commutation prices. I should invite, in this connexion, the attention of the House to the orders of the Government regarding the Madura settlement quoted by Mr. Srinivasaraghava Ayyangar in his memorandum. The order has since been withdrawn by the Government. The order referred to is this: that in considering this question of commutation prices the Settlement Officer was ordered to take the lowest prices prevailing in the twenty years previous. But in the light of remarks that I shall presently offer, it would appear that had that rule remained, it would have been very wise indeed and the Government would not have got themselves into the mess into which they have got by following the absurd proposition of taking the averages of previous twenty years, in a period of rising prices and applying the average as the commutation rate for a subsequent period of thirty years. Now, Sir, it seems to me, that to any man of common sense, this procedure ought to appear absurd. I would, in this connexion, request a perusal of the figures of prices given on page 156, Appendix XV of the original settlement report. It will be noticed that the price in 1903 stood at about Rs. 150 to Rs. 160 a garce, but to-day the price is somewhere about Rs. 140. It will also be noticed that from 1903 or even earlier, right up to 1920 the price had trebled, and since 1921 the prices have been falling. The Committee itself pointed out that it was unreasonable

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to take up a series of years when prices were steadily rising and were indicating abnormal conditions, the continuance of which nobody can foresee or nobody can guarantee. In fact all relevant economic facts were quoted by us in support of Mr. Datta's estimate of what the prices are likely to be. It was obvious to the Committee and they emphasized the fact that from 1912 onwards there was a chance of the prices continuing to rise and that there was no possibility that they would go on rising for ever. As a matter of fact, the figures quoted by the Settlement Officer on page 156, Appendix XV, show that from 1921 onwards the prices have been falling and they fell steadily from Rs. 10-14-0 a bag to the present day price—paddy in the Godavari delta is now selling at Rs. 3-4-0 a bag.

"Now, the Government, in accordance with the settlement rules take the average of the prices of any twenty of the preceding years. Here the Settlement Officer has taken a series of years from 1903 to 1922-23. If the prices had been going up steadily and if Government can guarantee that the prices will go upwards during the thirty years that are to follow, I can see some sense in Government fixing the commutation rate based on prices of the years mentioned here and applying it to the succeeding thirty years. What the Government are doing now is this; they are taking the figures of the very high and abnormal prices obtaining during the twenty-year period I have referred to and are going to apply that commutation rate to all the period that is to follow from now onwards to a series of years, during which I do not know what prices will obtain. The price obtaining now is Rs. 3-4-0 a bag and we do not know if it will go up or it will go down. There is no knowing what is going to happen. The settlement principle of this commutation rate is based on the assumption of a continuous rise in prices, and never dreams of a fall. It assumes that when you take the prices prevailing in a period of twenty years before the expiry of a settlement, the prices will go on increasing further, but when prices fall, the whole structure of the Government's resettlement proposals collapses to the ground like a house of cards. I would like to ask the Government where they stand now when they have adopted the commutation price of Rs. 258 a garce, when to-day the price is about Rs. 140. On the face of it, it is thoroughly absurd. Even at the risk of wearying the House, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the remarks of the Bardoli Commissioners and Mr. Anderson's remarks quoted on page 40 of the Economic Enquiry Report. This is what they wrote:

'Ultimately when Mr. Jaykar (as Settlement Officer of the Bardoli taluk) got to the stage of fixing the rates for his new groups he appears to have had regard to one consideration almost exclusively, namely, increase in the cash value of the main crops due to the rise in prices between 1895-1924.

"I think these remarks will almost apply verbatim to the present case.

'By a rough calculation of areas under different crops and yield per acre he estimated that the assessment if left in kind would have increased in value by 109 per cent in Bardoli and 93 per cent in Chorasi.'

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“ Our present Settlement Officer calculates the increase at 119 per cent.

Prima facie, therefore, he suggested the maximum increase of 33 per cent could easily be justified. But he recognized of course that there are two other factors which cannot certainly be ignored, that is to say, the contemporaneous increase in the cost of production and the uncertainty in prices. Admitting that some allowance might be made for these factors and finding, as is only to be expected, that on such lines he had no means of calculating even approximately what the allowance should be, he proposed to reduce the 33 per cent to 25 per cent. He might as well have suggested 20 or 15 or 10, the whole thing being guess work, and as the Settlement Commissioner expresses it in his forwarding report he left “ the main door of the fort wide open ”. One of the main grounds of attack against the present settlement has been that the years 1914 to 1924 were abnormal years, and as we have had the advantage of observing the course of prices for a further period of four years since then, we propose to make a few remarks on that aspect of the subject.

“ The Commissioners then go on and finally they say: ‘ The price now reached by rice in Bardoli is exactly what it was in 1914 ’. The price now obtaining in the deltas is about the price that obtained in 1893. They further state: ‘ So far as the available figures can be relied upon, therefore, they appear to show not only that the high prices prevailing in the decade 1914—1924 were abnormal but further that in case of food-grains at any rate a permanent increase over pre-war prices need not be expected to be very marked. . . . ’

“ I would also draw the attention of the House to Mr. Anderson’s remarks in his book ‘ Facts and Fallacies ’. Mr. Anderson (the Settlement Commissioner of Bombay) says:

‘ The rates for food-grains from 1818 to 1836 fell to only half what they had been in 1800—1818 (a great factor was the rapid increase in cultivation). And hence the ryot suffered when on a fixed cash assessment prices fell. He was caught by the back of the two-edged sword. Soon after the American Civil War, 1862-63, the same phenomenon was repeated. High rates were justly fixed on high prices and rents; but it was forgotten they might fall.’

So has the Madras Government forgotten, as the Bombay Government forgot once. He goes on to say:

‘ We are witnessing the same phenomenon after the Great War of 1914—1918. Prices and rents soared high and are now falling. The rates fixed from 1918 to 1928 have all been just and right on the prices and rents at that time. But they will soon be too high (or higher than intended) because prices seem to be falling; a few more good seasons might ruin the landholders.’

“ May I also add that if Government persists in this policy of insisting on Rs. 258 as the commutation rate, the ryots of the districts concerned are certainly going to be ruined. Considering the price that I have already quoted as obtaining at present, the increase over the previous resettlement rate of Rs. 118 per garce is only 21 per cent as against 119 that is claimed by the Settlement Officer. As I say, therefore, if you consider the present price of a garce and the future price of a garce, the whole structure of Government’s resettlement proposals must fall to the ground.

“ Then, Sir, I will come to another important question, namely, the question of cultivation expenses. Under the settlement rules, I suppose, one can excuse the resettlement officer for not going into details—under the rules he is not bound to go into the details of the cost of

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cultivation—but it seems to me that in view of the catastrophe that I have just mentioned, namely, the serious fall in prices—and one does not know what is going to happen—the Settlement Officer ought to have been more cautious and that it would have been wise if he had gone on into a careful examination of the cost of cultivation. His various excuses are that the question of the cost of cultivation is one of considerable difficulty and that it is an abstraction and so he does not propose to go into the details and so forth.

“ But then, Sir, he says that the most careful inquiries he has made go to show that the cultivation expenses per acre could not be more than Rs. 35. I invite your attention, Sir, to the remarks of the Settlement Officer at page 59 of the original resettlement report where he refers to the cultivation cost at Samalkot. He puts it at Rs. 50 to Rs. 60. The Committee found as a matter of fact that it was not Rs. 50 at all. It was Rs. 60 and above. And, Sir, he says that according to the settlement rules the cost of maintenance of bullocks which comes to Rs. 15 ought to be deducted from this figure of Rs. 50. So he puts it at Rs. 35. And I have already shown how the Settlement Officer assumes that the ryot gets enough fodder for his cattle and also a certain surplus of fodder and therefore now it is unnecessary to make any provision for the maintenance of the cattle. I have already shown that assumption is absurd and that as a matter of fact there is a tremendous shortage of fodder and that the ryots are forced to go in for an extra supply of fodder. So that the figure Rs. 35 which the Settlement Officer puts down as the expenditure is in my opinion unsustainable if the figure at Samalkot is Rs. 60. The Committee itself adopted three lines of work in arriving at an estimate of the cost of cultivation. First of all it took the available figures of cultivation at Samalkot and then we got from the ryots what were called *katta* accounts, regular accounts of cultivation which are maintained from year to year and not prepared for the occasion. Thirdly, the Committee undertook an elaborate village inquiry and examined ryots to find out from them their actual cost of cultivation. Now I have already referred to the Samalkot figures. With reference to the *katta* accounts, Sir, I wish to be as brief as possible. But may I draw the attention of the House to the use we have made of the *katta* accounts because the Committee admit that in some ways they are incomplete. And as the Settlement Officer remarks in a sneering manner the Committee had to use its discretion in making suitable omissions and deductions, for in the accounts sometimes private expenditure was entered and sometimes expenditure for sugarcane and other cultivation, which had no connexion with the cultivation of paddy, was entered. I hope, therefore, Government are not going to disbelieve our *bona fides* in our treatment of the material available. I think the Committee has shown clear indications at page 424 and page 450 of the omissions in the cultivation expenses schedules prepared by the Settlement Officer's investigators. The Settlement Officer's investigators have made inquiries with regard to certain data only, invariably, I think according to the settlement instructions. But whatever that may be, they have omitted systematically certain items.

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For instance take the question of *palerus* which is practically the rule everywhere. The settlement party make no allowance for them. Then for the maintenance of cattle and depreciation of cattle they make no allowance. I have already referred to the maintenance of cattle. Of the depreciation of cattle I have dealt at some length several times before in this House. What we found in our tours was that there was a tremendous amount of cattle mortality. Sometimes 50 per cent and 60 per cent of the cattle died. It is the usual practice for the ryots of the district to send their cattle to the uplands of the Nizam's dominions for grazing; and sometimes out of the 300 cattle sent only some 50 or 60 returned back, the rest having died in that short period. We came across such loss of cattle in our tours and I do not know how the ryots can make up for the loss in cattle if you make no allowance for it in the cultivation expenses. And that is why we found it necessary to make allowance for this in our report.

"Then Sir, there is the important question of manure. I wish to refer to it later on in full. But the item of manures has been actually omitted by the Government investigators. These *katta* accounts furnish ample evidence of the fact that the ryot is forced to incur expenditure on these items of which the Settlement Officer took no account. I wish to pass over the *katta* accounts without making any other remark except the fact that they furnish reliable evidence of the fact that the ryot in fact incurs expenditure on several items of which the settlement party never dreamt.

"And now in connexion with the question of cultivation expenses, I have referred to manures, and I do not think I need go into a detailed examination of the figures. The Committee's estimate is based on the assumption that half the number of cattle is sent to the uplands for grazing for half the year. That means one-fourth of the quantity of the manure otherwise available is lost; and for the rest of the period the Committee estimated that the manure available during the day time is lost to the ryot, on account of the fact that the cattle are sent out to graze. But the Settlement Officer contends that this is brought back and converted into fuel. But the point here to be noted is that the ryot does not collect it; anybody may collect it and in fact it is collected by young Panchama children and dried and used as fuel. Thus this does not come into the account of the ryot at all. So, if these points are taken into account, then the Committee's estimate of the available manure is absolutely right. And to make up this deficiency in manure the ryot has to go to chemical manures. For the manure available from the cattle does not amount to even one-tenth of what is required for manuring his land. Besides this many people go to distant places for *patimannu* and bring it by boat and also pig manure, goat manure, etc. Thus you will see that the settlement party do not take any account of these items. I would conclude by referring to the admissions of the Settlement Officer in paragraph 20 of the original resettlement report.

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" Now I will briefly refer to the question of *mamools*. It is a well-known fact that the ryot is, as a matter of fact, giving mamools to village servants like the blacksmith, the carpenter, the potter, the shoemaker and even to Public Works Department officials. Even though, the Settlement Officer sneers at the last item, we find it in fact as an item of expenditure in the accounts of the ryots.

" With reference to the cultivation schedule, the Settlement Officer in his last note makes much capital out of the mistakes he points out. Some of them are obviously clerical errors; and some of them are certainly due to printer's devil; and I may state here that the Committee, even though it did not exist at that time, had no opportunity to go through the proof of Volumes II and III. Anyhow if an opportunity had been given to the Committee, or at least, if the matter had been passed on to me, the ex-President of the Committee, if I may say so, I could have taken the trouble of correcting the mistakes; and then I don't think there would have been any occasion for the Settlement Officer to make capital out of these obviously clerical and printing mistakes.

" The Settlement Officer with reference to the item of cultivation expenses refers to the Banking Enquiry Committee's Report. I have with me here a copy of Volume V of the report containing the investigators' report of villages. I would not trouble the House by reading from this. But one thing is obvious. These investigators are not men trained in finding out the actual cultivation expenses. In fact unless a man knows previously all the items that go to constitute the income and expenditure of a ryot his report cannot be complete. Further we found that the ryots are not able to give out what their real cultivation expense is. In the course of our enquiry we found that although the ryot was incurring expense on several items like the maintenance of cattle, it was only when we asked him 'Do you incur expenditure on such and such an item?' he replies 'Yes.' He does not say that first of all unasked. So I am not surprised to see that several items of cultivation expenses are absent in the investigators' reports, for, as I said, unless one knows these items his report will be incomplete. So I attach no value to the investigators' report of villages of the Banking Enquiry Committee. They have been prepared on so-called 'settlement principles.'

" Then some remarks are made about Professor Ranga's discoveries of certain facts, which the Settlement Officer finds in a small book written by Professor Ranga when he was a fairly young man, and not when he was Secretary of the Committee. I am sure after his experience in the Committee, Professor Ranga is a wiser man and I attach no great value to his remarks made before he knew what items actually come under cultivation expenses.

" According to the figures of the Settlement Officer, it is stated that the Circars Cultivation and Development Company get about Rupees 23,266 on 1,050 acres of land. From this we should infer that the

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cultivating ryot must be getting about Rs. 19-3 per acre for his half share. I wonder what this means. Is it possible for any ryot to meet cultivation and live on Rs. 19 per acre or thereabouts? I have never heard anything like it during the whole of our enquiries through the many villages and no one would admit it. If Rs. 19 is taken up for cultivation, then what is the poor ryot to live upon? I indeed wonder how these ryots are getting on and these are the figures that have been furnished as authorities for the Settlement Officer; the Settlement Officer has passed some remarks on the Committee's figures. I would very much like to quote them but they are not complimentary to the Committee. I think, Sir, that there should be something wrong with the Circular Cultivation Development Company's figures.

"Sir, with reference to the cultivation schedule of which the Settlement Officer so much complains in reference to several mistakes, I must say this: the cultivation schedules are not in themselves our authorities. He wishes to make out that, because certain mistakes of a trivial nature have been discovered, arithmetical mistakes, printer's mistakes and so forth, the schedule is worthless. As a matter of fact, you are aware that we started the preparation of the schedule during the last ten days before we submitted our report. It was all done under very high pressure; and I am not surprised that there are some mistakes in it; they are not authorities; they are not our last sheet anchor so to say. Our findings and conclusions figure in the body of the report and these schedules have been prepared merely to illustrate our conclusions; and they certainly do not represent all that we rely upon. Now, Sir, the Settlement Officer has in his memorandum prepared, what he has called, corrected schedules. This schedule shows under each class of land the profit or rather what remains to the cultivator deducting cultivation expenses. Now, Sir, if we are to refer to the Settlement Officer's revised schedule at page 56 of his note, we find that on the medium scale of expenses practically 76 per cent of the cultivation turns out unprofitable; but supposing he adopted the minimum scales, even then 54 per cent of the cultivation turns out unprofitable. With the price of paddy at Rs. 6-8-0 per bag, about half the number of ryots are not making any profits. That is the result to which the Committee's report drives us. Now, Sir, the prices have been falling and to-day the price per bag of paddy in the Godavari district is Rs. 3-4-0. I will ask what sort of cultivation schedule will now be prepared at this rate. I cannot imagine, Sir, however unsympathetic the Government, how the Government could go on with the resettlement. I cannot believe how a decision arrived at on figures of prices for twenty years of the last three decades, in a period of rising and boom prices could be held to apply to a subsequent period of 30 years, when prices have fallen and there is great economic distress. The absurdity and sheer injustice of applying commutation prices obtained from a series of years of high prices to a subsequent period of low prices has already been referred to. Government cannot do better than follow this course if it wants to ruin the ryots.

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“ Now, Sir, I will come to the indebtedness of the agriculturists. The Special Settlement Officer has criticised our figures, and I am afraid that within the time I can take up I cannot adequately meet his points. Passing over to the Settlement Officer's objections, I must refer to the figures that he has quoted from the Banking Enquiry Committee's Report. The Banking Enquiry Committee toured through the northern districts and took three villages in the Godavari delta. I wonder what inferences they can draw from them as regards the conditions prevailing in general in the Northern Circars. In fact, I should not hesitate to say that the selection was very injudicious. The three villages chosen were in Ramachandrapur taluk and are among the most prosperous villages in a prosperous taluk in East and West Godavari put together. If you are going to deal with average conditions of indebtedness you should cover more extended area and try to take more or less average villages and not take the best villages from the Ramachandrapur taluk which is the most prosperous taluk in those parts. And, Sir, what did the investigators of the Banking Enquiry Committee find? Even in such a place they found that the average indebtedness per family was Rs. 685 in *Allameru*, Rs. 642 in *Peddapalla* and Rs. 367 in *Penikeru*. I think this is bad enough. Our figures are higher than that. It shows a serious state of things. Now, Sir, I must again pass over many of the remarks of the Settlement Officer; but I should not leave the charge of extravagance against the ryot un rebutted. In fact, they are poor and some of them are trying hard even for their very sustenance. It is a thing known to everybody that the Indian ryot is an impecunious individual and has not got enough even to eat. I now ask the hon. Members to refer to Appendix 23 (iv) of our Report, Volume III. This statement shows the financial position of a number of families in the three districts, their debts and the causes for these. We got evidence from 74 ryots in Kistna and their expenditure on marriages and ceremonies was Rupees 47,932; that comes to Rs. 648 per family. It is certainly not very high being only an average—there are people in different grades even among the ryots.”

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“ Is it for a particular year or for a period of years? ”

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ It is for a period of years. In the East Godavari district, 151 ryots gave evidence and their debts on account of marriages amounted to Rs. 28,000 and this gives Rs. 190 per family on an average. In the West Godavari district returns were received for 348 ryots and the total figure amounted to Rs. 1,01,870 which gives Rs. 300 per family. I cannot call this extravagance. The extravagance of the ryot is only a fiction and it cannot be supported by any authority.

“ The next point I must mention is this: what use have we of the Committee made of the figures regarding indebtedness? We have shown that the ryots are indebted to a certain degree. We have tried

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to assess the amount of indebtedness per family. But we made absolutely no use of them in our schedules. I do not know what points the Government can make out of these things. We also have not even made any allowances for interest on these debts in our schedules of cultivation.

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"Then, Sir, about village budgets. We took eleven villages. The Settlement Officer tries to make out that we selected these villages on purpose. We did not do that. We happened to have complete details about these villages. About the rest we had not these results. The results are all in the report. I do not want to repeat them here. With reference to the remark that in the case of these villages 28,000 bags go out and 437 come in and that therefore there must be other villages from which the produce must come to these villages—well, this is not a fact. This is another fiction that I must explode. These villages that we are dealing with are in the paddy producing districts but it is a fact that there is a large quantity of rice imported to these districts. If you take the actual figures you will find that in spite of a large production very large quantities of Burma rice are being imported to these villages. It may be due to many reasons and I have not the time to explain the reasons. But it certainly does not follow that though these eleven villages send out paddy and get little in, there must be other villages where the conditions are reversed.

"Now, Sir, with reference to the water-rates, you will notice that the Board have given no reply to the points raised at the commencement of section 46, Volume I of the Committee's report on water-rates. We referred to the terms of the Irrigation Cess Act which empowers Government to levy a 'fit return'. Now, Sir, what is a fit return? Are not the existing rates giving a fit return? Is not the Government getting a revenue of 18 per cent on capital from delta people? Is that not a fit return? Is there any argument for increasing water-rates except on generally accepted and valid settlement principles? I cannot see, Sir, how under the terms of the Irrigation Cess Act Government could go on increasing even the water-rate when already the existing water-rates are giving ample returns. If on your settlement calculations larger profits accrue to the ryots and if you are able to prove that, then surely you have established the case for increasing the consolidated water rate. But, Sir, I have shown that there is no case for increasing the settlement rates. What is the case for increasing the water-rates? I must necessarily draw attention to the totally incorrect remarks of the Settlement Officer. At the bottom of page 47 of his note he says: 'In Divi, if the resettlement proposals are given effect to, the total revenue from the lands under the project will be enhanced only by 15.95 per cent as against an enhancement of 18.27 per cent in the Kistna delta where the consolidated water-rate system is in force'. That is entirely wrong. Possibly it must be an inadvertent mistake. As a matter of fact, Sir, if the House will refer to paragraph 47, page 71 of the original settlement report at the end of the first paragraph this is what is written: 'Working on the best material available I estimate

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that instead of a dry revenue of Rs. 93,007, the project area will yield a land revenue of Rs. 1,07,842, an increase of Rs. 14,835 or 15.95 per cent'. It is obvious that the increase is due to the revision of dry classification alone. It is very different from saying that this is the total increase. As a matter of fact if the addition of enhanced water-rate is also put in, the net increase is much higher than the figure 15.95 which refers only to the increase of the dry classification. We suggested that the Settlement Officer adopted the proposals for revising the dry classification and putting in an enhanced water-rate, because by that method Government would get a much higher revenue than if they adopted a consolidated water-rate. Here is what the Settlement Officer writes at page 63 of the original settlement report: 'To meet the incalculable demands of future working, likely to prove, if anything, more expensive than in the past, it is advisable that the revenue should take the form of a settled assessment for the land *plus* a separate charge for the water. This charge should be fixed so as to cover the cost of the construction and working of the project, and might be varied to meet such necessity as may arise'. That means clearly this, that Government by this system recommended by the Settlement Officer not only gets more revenue but also reserves to itself the privilege of increasing the water-rates or reclassification of lands on a future date if it should be found necessary with reference to the cost of the machinery and so forth. That is exactly what the Settlement Officer states and so the Committee's statement was perfectly correct. And then, Sir, as a general justification of the resettlement rates the Settlement Officer quotes the case of Polavaram and Mettur projects. Polavaram is to pay a rate of Rs. 10-8-0 per acre. In Mettur they expect Rs. 15 per acre. God alone knows whether Government is going to recover these rates. I shall wait and see; I doubt very much whether they will be able to recover these rates particularly with reference to the fall in prices.

'Then I have only one or two remarks and I shall close. Government have said that the reference by the Committee to the excise revenue paid by the agricultural population is irrelevant. It is indirectly a taxation on land. We have only taken the income derived from the increase in the excise revenue during the last thirty years. Certainly it is an indirect taxation on land. There is no denying it. Certainly it is a very relevant matter. If Government gets an increased excise revenue of 36½ lakhs during the last resettlement period it is certainly a very relevant thing to state that it is a charge on land. How is agriculture going to pay for it?

'Then, the Settlement Officer does not also make any remarks about sanitation and public health. It is a very important thing. As the Agricultural Commission pointed out, it is a matter of vital importance. With your permission, Sir, I will only read the resolution of the All-India Conference of medical research workers concerning this very question of public health in villages.

'This conference believes that the average number of deaths resulting every year from preventable disease is about 5 to 6 millions, that the average number

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of days of loss of labour by each person in India from preventible disease is not less than a fortnight to three weeks in the year, that the percentage loss of efficiency of the average person in India from preventible malnutrition and disease is not less than 20 per cent and that the percentage of infants born in India who reach a wage-earning age is about 50, while it is quite possible to raise this percentage to 80 or 90.

"The question of improving the sanitation and public health of these villages is a very important one affecting the economic condition of the villages.

"I need not go into details to give a summary of the main points dealt with by the Committee. It is contained in paragraph 388 and so I would not read them. I would only remark that the House will agree that not a single one of the recommendations of the Committee referred to in the summary has been controverted by the Government. The Settlement Officer's remarks do not affect a single one of the recommendations of the Committee. They remain unaffected.

"I would only make one more remark with reference to one of our recommendations which was that in respect of the land-cess the local bodies should be given the option of increasing the land-cess to 25 per cent on the land revenue. The Settlement Officer argues that this means an increase practically of 17 per cent of the existing rates. But the main point is this, Sir. It does not mean that the 25 per cent increase should be given effect to to-day. These local bodies are managed by the agricultural classes there. They know the conditions; they know what rates will be suitable. Simply because the statute fixes it at 25 per cent it does not mean that the 25 per cent limit should be given effect to immediately. It does not at all mean that. Whatever the final figure that is adopted may be, the fact remains that this will be decided by the local people and the cess collected will be spent locally and not spent all over the Presidency by being taken to the general revenues.

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"Now, Sir, I think the House will agree that I have met all the objections raised by the Special Settlement Officer, and I hope sincerely that I have not spoken in vain. Some of us still believe that it is possible to persuade Government, and if I had not that belief, I for one would not have taken all this trouble. I hope, Sir, the cry of the Members of this Council, particularly of those coming from the Northern Circars would not go in vain, and that Government would still bear in mind particularly the peasant's harassing conditions, remembering that the system of resettlement itself is antiquated, and remembering that it is absurd to argue from commutation prices based upon the average of a number of years of increasing prices, and to apply them and to devise rates for increased assessment in the years to come in the future. The system is entirely indefensible, and if it is persisted in in the present case, it will result in making worse the misery of the cultivating classes who have already been crying for a remedy all these years. In fact, Sir, while I am not unconscious of the fact that Government has been doing things here and there that have led to some improvement of the condition of the agricultural

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classes, it has failed to tackle the most radical questions, one of which is this question of land revenue assessment and of its periodical revision, of which the people have complained for years.

“The present system of assessment is not only not progressive, but it actually tends in the other direction. It is a burden pressing more and more on the less prosperous villagers. It is based too much on averages; it is based on average rainfall; it is based on average output; it is based on average prices. The necessity of going to the money-lender particularly in bad seasons is one of the chief causes of lower production. The recurring surveys and settlements preceded by prolonged and harassing enquiries, accompanied by numerous complaints and appeals are a serious disturbing factor in agricultural economy and always lead to great discontent. The Government has turned a deaf ear to the complaints not only of the people, but of the Members of this House, who have been bringing forward motions, questions, resolutions and legislation before this House. The legislation passed by this House was turned down by the Government of India. I hope, Sir, that the appeal of the people, the appeal of the Members of this House repeated again and again will not go in vain, and that, considering the acute conditions of distress in these deltas which have been increased enormously by the continued falling prices, Government would make up its mind at once to pass orders stopping these resettlements, so that the people at least may feel that they would not have to pay any higher rates in the way of assessment. The feeling in those villages with which you, Sir, are not unacquainted and with which we, the Members of the Committee, are fully conversant is bitter. Had Government given effect to the resettlement when the proposals first came in, the people would have immediately resorted to civil disobedience. That was their firm resolution. Had you given effect to these resettlement proposals, you would have created not one Bardoli but many. The people of these three districts would have risen to a man and refused to pay the rates. We felt convinced of the reaction these proposals would create, having come into contact with the people. It is a very serious matter, and when people take such a resolution, certainly the Government should pause and consider. Even now, Sir, I hope it is not too late. For I assure you that the people have not given up that resolve, and if civil disobedience is not found there to-day and if you want it to come, give effect to these resettlement proposals. The three districts will respond to your call as one man and go in for civil disobedience. That was the feeling, Sir, when we toured round and conversed with the people. I may be permitted even at this stage to utter a warning to the Government. We have found that you have absolutely no case for increasing the rates of assessment. By increasing the assessment, you will ruin the ryots, you will drive them to desperation. So, Sir, let me beg of the Government to follow a reasonable and a conciliatory policy and make the ryots happy and contented; and in turn they will feel grateful for the blessings of good government.”

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* Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI:—“Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, has been kind enough to make an appeal to the House on behalf of the Northern Circars. He has appealed to the House to hear the cry of the Northern Circars. I feel deeply thankful to him on behalf of my own district and on behalf of the other districts of the Northern Circars. But, at the same time, I want to remind the hon. Members of this House that this question of resettlement is a question involving a principle which directly and immediately affects the interests of the ryots all over this Presidency. To-day, it is the turn of Godavaris and Kistna, Sir, to-morrow it will be the turn of Guntur and Nellore districts, and the day after to-morrow of Malabar and then of Chingleput and other districts; and so on, Sir, it is a matter which raises the cry of not only the Northern Circars, but of the ryots of the whole Presidency. Therefore, every hon. Member of this House who sits here and represents the people ought to take a direct and personal and sympathetic interest in this matter.

“Now, Sir, this question of resettlement raises a constitutional issue, whether the Government is entitled to this revenue as a matter of rent or as a matter of tax. That is an issue, Sir, which is thorny, which is controversial, and which is highly constitutional in its nature, and I do not propose to discuss that aspect before this House to-day. But I want to say this much on that point, Sir, namely, that we are going to argue the question of resettlement in the districts of Godavari and Kistna on the basis of the assumption that the claim of the Government is well founded; whether that claim is a claim to the rent or whether it is only a claim to the tax, that is a matter which ought to be kept open to us to raise at any subsequent occasion. Now, Sir, assuming that the Government is entitled to a share in the produce raised by the ryot by his labour on his fields, what is the position of the Government to-day? The right of the Government is stated in paragraph 3 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue in this connexion and the claim is put forward in these terms:—

“The Board has to observe at the outset that the Committee is in error in its statement of the principles of settlement. These are correctly stated by Mr. Holdsworth in paragraph 3 of his report. The Board desires to emphasize the fact that the assessment which the Government levy is an assessment on the produce of the land. It has been the immemorial practice in India for the State to claim a certain definite share of the produce. Originally this share was actually paid in kind. Consequently the Government automatically benefited in the same proportion as the rise in prices. If this old sharing system had been still in force, there would have been no need for a periodical revision of the rates of assessment. It was only after the share of the produce was commuted into a money value that such periodic revisions of the rates became necessary.”

The Board of Revenue goes on to say:—

“Normally, resettlement is not a fresh settlement of the Government share of the produce of the land but is merely a revision of the commuted money value of such share with reference to the variations in prices which have taken place subsequent to the introduction of the previous settlement.”

“Therefore, Sir, the case the Government as put forward in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue comes to this, that according to the immemorial custom the Government has been charging the ryot

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one-half of his net produce, which on grounds of convenience at a particular stage the Government agreed to take their share of the produce in terms of money. Then the Board of Revenue goes on to say that this rate which is fixed between the Government and the people is liable to change. I am glad, Sir, the Board has stated their case in that way, because if the assessment that has been arrived at at a particular period is subject to periodical revision the change must be either way. If the change is beneficial to the Government, if there has been any rise in the quantity of the produce or in the prices of land, by all means the Government will be entitled to make out their case and claim their due. But if it is established by facts that it is the other way, that there is a good deal of difference in prices between the period at which the last settlement was made and the period at which the present settlement is made, if it is established by facts that the value of the crops, the prices of the crops, have fallen and therefore the income of the ryot is considerably lower than what it was at the last resettlement, then it is open to the ryot to say that the resettlement must be the other way, namely, for the reduction of the rates.

“ Having outlined the case of the Government in that way, now I wish to say that there are certain principles which are laid down by the Government of India and by the Secretary of State, and which have got to be observed. I would just refer this House to those principles. I do not want to quote outside authorities, which the Government may refuse to accept or recognize. I would only try to convince them on their own showing, on the authority of the principles laid down by the Government themselves, that there is no case made out for any enhancement in the taxes. Now, Sir, I may just in this connexion refer to the despatch of the Government of India, dated 16th January 1902. With reference to this question, the Government of India in Resolution No. 1, dated 16th January 1902, wrote as follows:—

‘ It cannot but be their desire that assessment should be equitable in character and moderate in incidence, and that there should be left to the proprietor or to the cultivator of the soil, as the case may be, that margin of profit that will enable him to save in ordinary seasons and to meet the strain of exceptional misfortune.’

That is one principle that has been laid down by the Government of India. Then, Sir, there is another principle which is laid down by the Secretary of State for India in Council and which has got to be adhered to in the matter of resettlement, is from the orders of the Secretary of State for India in Council issued in 1885; the principle that has to be adduced is this: ‘ that a general and permanent rise in the prices of produce is one of the principal indications to measure this increment.’ The order of the Secretary of State for India consists of two parts: the first part says: ‘ the State shall retain its claim to a share in the unearned increment of the value of land in a progressive country.’

“ And then they lay down the basis that ‘ a general and permanent,—the words ‘ general and permanent ’ are very important, Sir,—rise in the prices of produce is one of the principal indications to 4 p.m

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measure this increment'. These are the two principles which are laid down by the Government themselves. I would very briefly show that these principles have not been followed by the Government themselves."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has got only one minute more."

* Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI:—"I am only in the stage of introduction, Sir. (Laughter.) On this question of resettlement of East and West Godavari and Kistna, there is first of all the settlement scheme report prepared and published by the Settlement Department itself. According to it the following is the cost of production in the various years:—

	RS.
In 1903-04	62
„ 1913-14	263
„ 1919-20	399
„ 1920-21	478
„ 1921-22	410
„ 1922-23	364

"These are the figures given by the Settlement Department. Then the Settlement report goes on to say 'The Settlement Officer fixes the cultivation expenses which have got to be deducted before the Government can arrive at the net produce out of which alone they can claim their share of Rs. 35 per acre'. Now, Sir, the cultivation expenses of the Government in the farms maintained by them come to Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per acre. That being the case, the figures furnished by the Government themselves with reference to their own cultivation expenses, would clearly disprove the statement that Rs. 35 is the accurate figure for cultivation expenses of ryots.

"The settlement report goes on to say again 'The increase in cultivation expenses is 150 per cent'. They then suggest an increase in the rates and give reasons. One of such reasons is that the commutation prices referred to above have risen from 100 to 119 per cent. That is one of the points on which they rely."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member will please resume his seat.

"The original motion as well as the amendment is now for the consideration of the House."

* Mr. G. SRIRAMULU:—"Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, has already dealt with the subject in detail as he is well-posted with the facts being the President of the Economic Enquiry Committee. However, I should like to say a few words about the present economic condition of the three districts concerned, that is Kistna, and East and West Godavari. The price of agricultural produce has been on the decline for the last two years and there has also been failure of rains. Especially this year, the price of agricultural produce has gone down considerably. To

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add to this, there has been decrease in the rental value of lands also. Moreover, the failure of crops this year has been very marked on account of untimely rains. I do not say that there was no rain at all. There was rainfall, only the rains were useless for cultivation. There was no rainfall when there ought to be rain and there was excessive rain when there ought to be no rain. Consequently, the crops failed and almost all the fields yielded only a fraction of what they used to yield in previous years. The price of paddy has not, as a consequence, risen, but has fallen and it has fallen so low that a given measure of paddy now fetches only a fourth of what it used to fetch. Under the proposed resettlement, the data taken is that of the past years and the revenue to be paid is to be paid in future years. If this state of financial depression continues, there will be no hope at all for the realization of land revenue by the Government. The primary duty of the Government is to care more for the tax-paying capacity of the ryots. If that is to be done, the proposed resettlement should not be given effect to."

* Mr. K. KESAVA RAMAMURTI:—"Sir, permit me to say a few words on this important motion now before the House. Sir, Mr. Holdsworth in his report said that the value of land had gone up two to five times and that commutation prices of the various agricultural produce had gone up by 100 to 119 per cent. The recommendations for the enhancement of the assessment are very unreliable and they have already been dealt at length by the previous speakers. It would seem that the prices had reached the level at which they stood in 1899 when the proposals for resettlement were brought forward. That means, again, that there is no necessity and no justification for any enhancement of the assessment now. The prices now obtaining at Cocanada are as follows (I am quoting from the English Chamber of Commerce returns):—

'Per bag of 166 lb. paddy—

13th January 1930	...	...	...	...	Rs. 6 to Rs. 6-4-0.
10th February 1930	...	...	...	...	,, 6 to Rs. 6-2-0.
10th March 1930	...	...	...	...	,, 5-14-0.
7th April 1930	...	...	...	...	,, 6-2-0.
30th June 1930	...	...	...	...	,, 6-7-0.
28th July 1930	...	...	...	...	,, 6-12-0.
22nd September 1930	...	...	...	...	,, 6-4-0.
15th December 1930	...	...	...	...	,, 3-8-0.'

"Now the ruling price per bag of 166 lb. is Rs. 3-8-0. The price of 1,000 coconuts now is Rs. 15 whereas in previous years it was Rs. 40. For tobacco also the price has fallen considerably from Rs. 75 to Rs. 125 per candy to Rs. 35 and for cholam the price which was Rs. 160 per garisai has come down to Rs. 125. In this state of affairs any attempt at enhancing the rates will occasion much bitterness among the ryot population and there will be a lot of disaffection. Now is the time for creating peaceful conditions and not for further embittering the minds of the masses. I fear that, if any enhanced rates

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are now imposed upon them, they will fall victims to the blandishments of the civil resisters and launch a no-tax campaign. So that in the interests of the country and the ryot population I request the Government not to give effect to the new settlement rates."

* Mr. D. V. NARASIMHASWAMI:—"Mr. President, I heartily associate myself with what has fallen from my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar. As every one knows there has been a marked decline in the price of agricultural commodities and foodstuffs. As stated by the previous speaker the price of paddy has gone down by nearly 150 per cent. In such circumstances, I request the hon. the Revenue Member to come to the aid of the peasant population by accepting the modest amendment moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar."

Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA:—"Mr. President, various aspects of the matter have been brought out by the Committee which dealt with the subject exhaustively. I take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Committee and its President for their labours and for the investigation they made and also for the accurate report they presented about the conditions prevailing in the districts in which resettlement is sought to be introduced. They have stated at the commencement of the report that the Resettlement Officer proceeded entirely on a one-sided view, in that he took into account only the rise in prices and not several important considerations. One of such important considerations is the economic condition of the people, their indebtedness and other difficulties. The Settlement Officer says that the Committee which dealt with the matter proceeded on the footing that they should take into account the difficulties of the individual ryots and not the general economic condition of the people. I think the view of the Settlement Officer is hardly correct. I see that this position of the Settlement Officer has been emphasized by the Board in its resolution passed over the head of the Enquiry Committee report. As I said, this is hardly correct, because the Committee itself in its concluding portion clearly refer to the fact that they referred to the conditions of the ryot population in general and not to the difficulties of individual ryots. The Board, however, at page 11 of the connected papers placed in our hands accept this principle, namely, that the essential conditions to be taken note of are the rise in price and the existing economic condition of the people. But curiously enough the Board in another place (paragraph 29) say that—

'The Committee has started with the fundamentally erroneous idea that the assessment should be regulated with reference to the economic condition of each individual ryot and not the productivity of the land.'

I will put side by side with this, what the Committee has stated on the question. At page 101 of their report, the Committee say:

'We hope that the Government is no way committed to the dictum, that it is the land that pays the assessment, and that it is not concerned with the well-being of the ryots paying the assessment. We believe that Government is and must be actuated by the most humane considerations, and that it cannot fail

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to attach due weight to the conditions of poverty, indebtedness and misery which affect such a large part of the agricultural population and determine their ability to bear the burden of present and future enhanced taxation.'

"It is thus clear from what I have read that the Special Settlement Officer and the Board have committed the mistake and misrepresented the Committee's view. But it will be found that the Committee's report says that they proceeded on the principle which is recognized by the Board itself, which is borne out by the statement made by the Board. There are some statements made by the Board which are worth quoting here. On page 7 of their proceedings they say 'The Committee's contention that the value of the net produce is insufficient to maintain the ryot would appear to be almost absurd to anyone who is in the least acquainted with the conditions of cultivation in the Kistna and Godavari deltas.' The reasons they give are these:—'If the facts were as stated, land values instead of increasing as they have done must inevitably have dropped; cultivation must have fallen in extent and the ryot population gone elsewhere in order to earn a living. The facts that population has increased and shows no sign of migration, that cultivation has extended and that land lease values have gone up enormously are in themselves a refutation of any such suggestion as the Committee puts forward.' I am afraid that the mere reading of this statement by any outsider will convince him that it is a prejudiced view that the Board takes on this question. To anyone who is acquainted with the conditions of the district it will be obvious that the ryots do not leave their places because, whatever burden is imposed upon them, it is their tendency to stick to their native homes patiently. Agriculture is the only occupation that is prevalent in this country and therefore the ryots cannot give up agriculture because there is no other avocation for them in this country, and they cannot give up their living. A larger area of land is being cultivated now because there is a corresponding increase in the population.

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"Then the Board says 'If he cannot raise money by any of those means he has to borrow on the security of his land or jewels. This in fact is and has been from time immemorial the ryot's peculiar method of banking. That he has to borrow is no proof at all that he is in a bad way. Indeed it is rather a proof that he is well off and that his credit stands high in the money-market. To argue as the Committee has done that increased indebtedness denotes increased poverty, is, the Board is convinced, the exact opposite of the truth.' The Board means to say that because the ryot is indebted he is more prosperous. I do not know whether anybody who is acquainted with the conditions of the ryot population in India would for one moment subscribe to this statement.

"Then there is one curious statement on page 48 and it reads thus: referring to increase in excise revenue, they say 'If any inference is to be drawn from the figures of excise revenue it is that they afford another indication of the fact that money is plentifully available for the

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purpose of luxuries and suggest that the picture of agricultural distress painted by the Committee is over-coloured." I think no comment is necessary on this statement.

"Now, Sir, to anyone who is acquainted with the conditions of the district, whether you take the case of the delta ryots, of the upland ryots or the ryots in the lanka, it will be clear that everywhere there is distress. So much so whether a ryot is rich or poor, he is unable to pay even the existing kist. Of course, the first kist for this year has been paid and probably that can be used as an argument for the ryots being rich. But the real truth is they have pledged their jewels or paddy and have paid their first instalment of kist. They have not been able to sell their products because there is no purchaser. A bag of paddy which was selling at Rs. 6 or Rs. 9 now sells at Rs. 3 or Rs. 3-4-0, so that they are in a very awful plight. On the one side the Government press them for their dues and on the other hand the sowcar presses them for his dues. They are thus between the devil and the deep sea. That is the pitiable condition in which the ryots are placed. In these circumstances there is absolutely no ground whatsoever for the enhancement that is proposed.

"Well, Sir, as my hon. Friend who moved the resolution quoted from the address given to the House by His Excellency the Governor wherein it is observed agricultural depression affects the ryots intensely and there is the possibility of the ryots being put to greater difficulties, that possibility has now become a reality. Even if you do not take the other grounds into consideration, at least for this reason and this reason alone the resettlement proposals should not be given effect to.

"I do not wish to take up more time of this House especially as my hon. Friend Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar has exhaustively dealt with the matter."

* Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friends who preceded me have been dealing with the scientific, historical and technical aspects of the subject. As for me, I shall confine myself to the view-point of the ryot, the layman and the man in the street. Now the point is, can the ryot in East and West Godavari, and Kistna districts stand any enhancement of assessment? That is the only question to be decided. Now to think of enhancement there must be some kind of profit, some kind of margin. For that we shall have to see what are the cultivation expenses and what are the prices that are ruling in the market. Now, Sir, as everybody here and elsewhere knows, there has been an unprecedented fall in prices and there has been an unprecedented slump in the market and an allround depression. Now, Sir, I have noted down some prices that obtain in the market to-day in Kistna district. I shall take a cursory survey of them. Dhol which was selling at $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee now sells at $6\frac{1}{2}$ seers. Gram which was selling at Rs. 10 up to Rs. 18 now sells at Rs. 6 to Rs. 6-12-0. The price of gram that rose up to Rs. 18 last

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year and the year before last, is now at Rs. 6-12-0 per bag. Green-gram sells at 17 seers per rupee, while it was selling at 13 seers previously. Paddy which is the common commodity of the deltaic parts is selling, my Friend was saying, at Rs. 3-8-0 per bag of 166 lb. at Cocanada. But in Gudivada and Kaikalur it sells at Rs. 3 and Rs. 2-12-0 per bag respectively. Time was when it was selling at about Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 per bag. Even in 1906 or 1907 paddy sold at Rs. 4 per bag. Even if we go back to earlier years, at least in our living memory, paddy did not sell at Rs. 3 or Rs. 2-8-0 per bag. Now groundnut which is a marketable commodity in the uplands or dry lands is so cheap that it is selling at about 12 annas per maund, so much so that many of the ryots are not digging it because it will not even pay the labour which is required for the purpose. The cultivation expenses do not at all bear any comparison to the prices ruling in the market. Cultivating expenses for paddy per acre comes to Rs. 35, whereas the quantity of paddy produced per acre, viz., ten bags sell at Rs. 30. So it will be seen that the price of paddy is Rs. 5 less than the cultivation expenses.

“ Then with regard to dry lands or uplands, the cultivation expenses come to Rs. 13, while the produce itself sells at Rs. 10.

“ You know, Mr. President, that Gudivada was supposed to be the garden of Kistna district being fed by the river Kistna. The ryot there is now hopelessly despondent and his condition is extremely miserable. As though the fall in prices were not enough there are something like three war dogs which are pursuing him. One is the Marwari money-lender, the second is the Imperial Bank and the third, the tax-gatherer. How miserable is the plight of the ryots of Gudivada and Kistna district as a whole can better be imagined than described. So instead of talking of enhancement of assessment, I think it is time that we spoke of any remission, partial at least and the payment of the balance of kist being spread over a larger period than that which obtains now.

“ It is a truism to say that the ryot is the backbone of the Government and the very foundation upon which the Government stands. He has already been groaning under assessment which has been enhanced periodically. Now this one stroke of depression and slump broke the camel's back entirely. It is for the Government to consider whether, under such circumstances, it will be statesmanship or wisdom to drive despair into the heart of the ryot. I say it is impossible for him to meet any assessment, let alone enhancement of assessment. Under these circumstances, I say the Government ought to pause, ought to consider whether it is time to press the ryot still further and to squeeze out the little life that is left in him. There is a saying that you should not cut the udder of the cow if you want to be milking it. You must keep the ryot contented; you must keep the ryot prosperous, if you want to keep the ryot loyal to the Government. You can do all this only in one way and that is by behaving humanly and humanely. If you fail to do that, I am afraid there will be a crisis. We do not know what the

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result will be. So it is statesmanship, it is wisdom, not to harass the ryot, not to worry him in his present predicament. The time would come when we would speak of remission, at least partial remission. The time would come when we have to speak of payment of the instalments of kists spread over a longer period. For the time being I think all the Members of the House will agree with me when I say that the ryot ought not to be troubled, ought not to be tantalized. He must be left alone to gather strength. Of course there will be piping times of peace and prosperity again. Then there would be plenty of time for the Government to think of making good what loss it might sustain at present or at least to have the consolation of making a larger collection than now. But so far as the present is concerned, I warn the Government, I request the Government, I entreat the Government, not to trouble the ryot by any enhancement in assessment."

* MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Mr. President, Sir, coming as I do from the Northern Circars, I feel I am bound to support the motion and the amendment. It is not only right, just but also wise that the Government should stay its hands now. Those of us who have got intimate knowledge of the agricultural conditions in those parts, have no hesitation in saying that the recommendations of the Economic Enquiry Committee are correct and that the criticisms made thereon by the Settlement Officer or the Revenue Board are not correct; for we know that the Settlement Officer has based his conclusions on inadequate and insufficient data whereas the Economic Enquiry Committee has gone throughout the length and breadth of these three districts and has made investigations and has come to these conclusions. The Government cannot doubt those conclusions; neither can any one of us doubt its conclusions, and its *bona fides*. Therefore my submission is that the conclusions of the Committee cannot, by one stroke of the pen, be said to be untrue or incorrect by the Revenue Board. The only conclusion we can draw is this. The observations of the Committee are right and it is the Revenue Board and the Settlement Officer who have no intimate knowledge of the matter, who did not go into the details of the case, who are wrong in their conclusions as my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, has pointed out. At present prices have gone low; there is world-wide depression; there is also local depression because the price of paddy is abnormally low. People who were in a prosperous condition previously, have now spent their money and are now at the mercy of the Marvaris. The ryot's produce does not fetch as large an income as it did previously and he is not able to pay his dues. The ryot is in that precarious condition; I know intimately many agriculturists both Muslims and Hindus who are not only my clients but also my friends and they are now in a very precarious condition. The Government will be doing only bare justice, if it stays its hands now. Its conclusions are not correct. Secondly, prices are abnormally low; thirdly the Government will be creating a peaceful atmosphere—which is most needed now—when we are awaiting the decisions of the Round Table Conference."

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* Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo:—" Sir, I do not wish to cover the ground already traversed by previous speakers. Of course I subscribe to all that has been said. I only wish to say this much ; assuming that the conclusions of the Settlement Officer are correct and that those of the Economic Enquiry Committee are not correct, what must the Government do now? That is the question. They say that certain deductions have been made and that certain results have been arrived at. I think that all these questions are irrelevant to the question at present, whether the assessment should be raised or not ; because all these considerations go to show what data should be adopted in future years. Those are the major premises ; all these 20 or 30 years the average was so much ; therefore in the next 30 years also the same data may hold good. The Government has got a new situation to deal with. The average for the previous years indicates that the higher rate should be adopted ; but the present low prices indicate that a very low rate should be adopted. I do not think the Government had ever to face such a situation. Therefore it is necessary that the Government should carefully deal with the question. I think this is an unprecedented situation with which the Government has to deal. In previous years there was either gradual rise or there was gradual fall. Now there has been a sudden fall. Is that fall going to be permanent or is it going to be temporary? The Government should consider this question first. The Government should not rush to the conclusion now that the rates of the Settlement Officer should be adopted. The first and the real question that should be investigated is whether the present fall is temporary or permanent. This is the general principle that has to be adopted with regard to all lands in the Presidency, whether they are in the ryotwari tracts or in the zamindari tracts or in the Malabar district or elsewhere. The general principle has to be laid down by the Government now. The Government have no precedent on which to act.

" Take the reverse case. Suppose the average was a low one. Then will the Government fix the low rate shown for the previous 20 or 30 years? They would not do so; they will say the main question in such cases is whether the land can bear the burden or not. All the factors referred to by the previous speakers and all the instructions laid down merely go to show that the question whether the land can bear the burden, has to be settled. Suppose a high rate is adopted ; what will be the result? People cannot pay the assessment.

" Even the excise revenue comes from the ryots. This fact has already been referred to by previous speakers. I go further and say that the fiscal policy of the Government has been very oppressive to the ryots. Take, for instance, the indebtedness. No solution to that problem has been found, because the co-operative movement has not touched the fringe of the problem of the indebtedness of the ryots. They are still in the hands of the sowcars. Suppose the price of agricultural produce goes down ; the price of land also goes down. Then what will be the result? The sowcar will press for the payment of the amount due to him, and he will take a larger extent of land. Suppose the price

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of an acre was Rs. 1,000 previously and that it is now Rs. 500. Instead of taking one acre, the sowcar will take now two acres. Not only that ; the ryot has also to pay higher stamp duty. The sowcar may pay it in the first instance ; ultimately it will fall on the shoulders of the poor and indebted ryot. All these facts go to show that the ryot is in a very bad and helpless state. I say therefore that the stamp duty also has to be revised in view of the fact that there has been a fall in prices. Therefore, even assuming that the conclusions of the Settlement Officer are correct, I think that the Government would not levy the rates proposed by him."

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Mr. President, Sir, before dealing with the merits of the resolution as proposed to be amended by my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, I should like to clear up one point. The resolution, as amended, would run as follows:—' This Council recommends to the Government that, with reference to the recommendations of the Economic Enquiry Committee, the proposed resettlement in Kistna, and East and West Godavari districts, be not given effect to.' The hon. Members who have spoken have referred almost entirely to the question of the introduction of the enhanced rates of assessment. But I would point out once again to the House that a resettlement involves a great deal more than merely the alteration of the rates of assessment ; in the case of these districts, there has been a certain amount of reclassification of land and of irrigation sources and a considerable amount of transfer of lands from dry to wet and so on. I take it that my hon. Friend does not wish that this work should be suspended or cancelled. All that he wishes, I take it, is that there should be no increase in the rates of assessment. I want to be clear. I wish to know from the hon. Member whether he wishes to have transference of lands from dry to wet, etc., cancelled.

4-45
p.m.

" I think hon. Members are to some extent aware of the principles on which resettlements are made, some of which have been explained by certain speakers this evening. I would like, however, if I may, to draw the attention of hon. Members again to the principles underlying resettlements so far as the revision of the rates of assessment is concerned. The Government order on the subject is as follows:—

' As a resettlement is based on the variations in prices, it is necessary to determine the extent to which such variations have taken place subsequent to the introduction of the expiring settlement. For this purpose, the commutation rates adopted for the staple grains at the expiring settlement should be compared with the value calculated for such of them as continue to be staple grains from the average of recorded prices during the twenty non-famine years immediately preceding the commencement of resettlement operations, after an appropriate deduction has been made for cartage and merchants' profits. In framing proposals for the revision of assessment, the Settlement Officer must bear in mind that there should be a substantial change in prices in order to justify the revision and that the rates cannot be raised to the full measure of a rise in prices because the allowance made for increased cost of living and of labour, stock and implements, as well as for promoting a higher standard of comfort should be liberal. Where the revision takes the form of a percentage enhancement of the previous rates, such enhancement shall not exceed 18½ per cent of those rates. The Settlement Officer before recommending that a resettlement should take the form of a percentage variation of the existing rates should satisfy himself that the existing

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scheme of rates has proved reasonable in practice and equitable in its incidence during the currency of the expiring settlement and may propose such revision of the bases of the assessment, as he, for special reasons, considers necessary. For this purpose, he should carry out an examination of the economic condition of the holders of agricultural land in the tract with a view to instituting a comparison between their condition in the opening and in the closing years of the settlement period. From such comparison reliable inferences may be drawn as to how far the existing rates as a whole have or have not impeded economic development and to what extent they have proved relatively equitable in the various parts of the area under report. The information thus collected will also serve as a guide to the exact percentage enhancement which may reasonably be proposed and whether it should be uniform for the whole tract or not.

“Those are the orders, Sir, under which the resettlement officers undertake an economic enquiry. I am not prepared to admit that in this case the enquiries made by the Settlement Officers have been inadequate. We have before us the Settlement Officer's original report and the report made after full enquiries by the Economic Enquiry Committee recorded over by my hon. Friend Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar. We have also got the remarks made upon that report by the expert officers of Government, viz., the Special Settlement Officer, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, the Director of Agriculture, and finally we have also a summary made by the Board of Revenue. From a perusal of those documents, it seems to me that the proposals of the Settlement Officer and of the Board of Revenue are justified. I am not now referring to the present crisis; I shall come to that later.

“My friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, has replied in great detail to the remarks made by the Special Settlement Officer on the report of the Economic Enquiry Committee. I do not propose to take up the time of the House now by following him in every detail. It seems to me that there have been sufficient arguments and replies on both sides. He referred to such matters as vicissitudes of the season and rainfall. As regards vicissitudes of the season, the usual allowance was made at the original settlement of some 15 or 20 per cent on that account; and allowances have also been made for the various matters which my hon. Friend has referred to.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“Ten per cent.”

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—“Very well, Sir. Since the time of the last settlement, much has been done to improve the position of the ryot; for instance, communications have been very much improved. The mileage of maintained roads increased in the period 1906—1926 by 30 per cent in the Kistna and West Godavari districts, and by 52 per cent in the East Godavari district; new railways have been opened through these districts; these measures have materially reduced the cost of taking produce to the market. The statement furnished by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation which is appended to the Board of Revenue's report, shows that a considerable amount of work has been done in the way of improving drainage and irrigation channels. I need not go into details now for I think the House is well aware of the fact that a great deal has been done since the last settlement and that I hope that such work will be continued in the future as far as our funds permit.

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“ My hon. Friend Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar made certain definite suggestions, e.g., with regard to the discharge of more water into the canals at the head sluice at Bezwada. He also criticized as inadequate the tentative section of certain drainage channels, and suggested that the designs should be reconsidered, and expressed doubts as to the sufficiency of the arrangements made or contemplated for the disposal of floods due to the Yerracalva and the Rallamadugu. I shall be glad to have these matters looked into and to see whether anything more can and should be done. Of course, all these measures necessarily cost money, and the Government is under the necessity of raising taxes to carry them out, in addition to providing for education, public health and so on which the country quite rightly demands. Well, we can all sympathize with those who wish to see a reduction in the rates of the taxes which they have to pay. That is, of course, a very natural feeling; but the Government have to see that the taxes which are collected are distributed as equitably as possible throughout the whole province. Now, Sir, this resettlement has been carried out on the same basis as other resettlements. I am quite aware that many hon. Members do not agree with the principles or the methods on which this resettlement has been carried out. But this is not an opportune moment to make any radical changes in this direction. There may perhaps be important changes in the form of Government before many years elapse, and it is therefore better that it should be left to the Ministers under the new form of Government to devise new methods of land revenue settlement rather than we should attempt to give any new scheme through this House at this time. Meantime, it is our duty to carry on the Government in this respect on the lines already established, and to see that the principles that are now in force are applied equitably over the whole province. We accordingly have come to the conclusion that, on the principles of resettlement now adopted, the new rates as proposed by the Settlement Officers are justified and correct.

“ Reference has been made, Sir, by several hon. Members to the fact that at the present moment, prices have fallen very much, and that prices are below the commutation rates which have been worked out by the Settlement Officer. Hon. Members may remember that the commutation rate at the last settlement was Rs. 118; if we increase that by $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent, the result is a rate of only Rs. 140 and not Rs. 255 which is the commutation price worked out by the Settlement Officer for the Godavaris. Whatever that may be, it is possible that prices may fall even below this price of Rs. 140, and it may be urged that on that account there should be some remission if the new rates are to be brought into force. I would however contend that whatever measures are to be adopted for the relief in these districts, of ryots and others affected by the economic depression, they should be applied equally to the whole province. These new rates which, but for the appointment of the Enquiry Committee, would have been brought into force in the year 1928, i.e., three years ago, have not still been brought into force. We cannot, of course, bring them into force during the current fasli; we may perhaps bring them into force in the next fasli. We propose;

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having reference to the present economic depression, to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to study the position and to make recommendations to the Government as to whether Government should take any measures in connexion with it and if so what measures. It is possible they may consider various proposals, amongst them being perhaps the question of a temporary reduction of assessment, either generally for the whole province or for particular districts or particular classes of lands or for particular crops; they may also consider facilities to be offered by the co-operative marketing of goods or by making advances to ryots, either direct or through co-operative banks. Whatever may be decided, it seems to me that we should not give to these three districts an advantage of about 20 per cent over the remaining districts of the Presidency, especially those districts where the resettlement has been recently introduced, such as Bellary, Anantapur, Tanjore and South Arcot. The proper course will be for these new rates to be notified; but whether they should be actually enforced next year or not will be a matter for consideration by the new committee which will surely consider all questions connected with the present economic depression."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I take it that the House is ready for a vote.

"I will first put the amendment to the vote of the House. The 5 p.m. question is:

'That for all the words after the word "Government" in line 1 substitute the words "that, with reference to the recommendations of the Economic Enquiry Committee, the proposed resettlement in Kistna and East and West Godavari districts, be not given effect to.'"

The amendment was carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I will now put the original motion, as amended, to the vote of the House. The question is:

'That this Council recommends to the Government that, with reference to the recommendations of the Economic Enquiry Committee, the proposed resettlement in Kistna, and East and West Godavari districts, be not given effect to.'"

The motion was carried.

V.—ELECTION OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY COMPANY.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have to announce to the House that, as the result of election held on the 29th January 1931, Rao Sahib C. Jayaram Nayudu and Mr. A. Harischandrudu have been declared duly elected as members of the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[Mr. R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar] [29th January 1931]

“ Our present Settlement Officer calculates the increase at 119 per cent.

Prima facie, therefore, he suggested the maximum increase of 33 per cent could easily be justified. But he recognized of course that there are two other factors which cannot certainly be ignored, that is to say, the contemporaneous increase in the cost of production and the uncertainty in prices. Admitting that some allowance might be made for these factors and finding, as is only to be expected, that on such lines he had no means of calculating even approximately what the allowance should be, he proposed to reduce the 33 per cent to 25 per cent. He might as well have suggested 20 or 15 or 10, the whole thing being guess work, and as the Settlement Commissioner expresses it in his forwarding report he left “ the main door of the fort wide open ”. One of the main grounds of attack against the present settlement has been that the years 1914 to 1924 were abnormal years, and as we have had the advantage of observing the course of prices for a further period of four years since then, we propose to make a few remarks on that aspect of the subject.

“ The Commissioners then go on and finally they say: ‘ The price now reached by rice in Bardoli is exactly what it was in 1914 ’. The price now obtaining in the deltas is about the price that obtained in 1893. They further state: ‘ So far as the available figures can be relied upon, therefore, they appear to show not only that the high prices prevailing in the decade 1914—1924 were abnormal but further that in case of food-grains at any rate a permanent increase over pre-war prices need not be expected to be very marked. . . . ’

“ I would also draw the attention of the House to Mr. Anderson’s remarks in his book ‘ Facts and Fallacies ’. Mr. Anderson (the Settlement Commissioner of Bombay) says:

‘ The rates for food-grains from 1818 to 1836 fell to only half what they had been in 1800—1818 (a great factor was the rapid increase in cultivation). And hence the ryot suffered when on a fixed cash assessment prices fell. He was caught by the back of the two-edged sword. Soon after the American Civil War, 1862-63, the same phenomenon was repeated. High rates were justly fixed on high prices and rents; but it was forgotten they might fall.’

So has the Madras Government forgotten, as the Bombay Government forgot once. He goes on to say:

‘ We are witnessing the same phenomenon after the Great War of 1914—1918. Prices and rents soared high and are now falling. The rates fixed from 1918 to 1928 have all been just and right on the prices and rents at that time. But they will soon be too high (or higher than intended) because prices seem to be falling; a few more good seasons might ruin the landholders.’

“ May I also add that if Government persists in this policy of insisting on Rs. 258 as the commutation rate, the ryots of the districts concerned are certainly going to be ruined. Considering the price that I have already quoted as obtaining at present, the increase over the previous resettlement rate of Rs. 118 per garce is only 21 per cent as against 119 that is claimed by the Settlement Officer. As I say, therefore, if you consider the present price of a garce and the future price of a garce, the whole structure of Government’s resettlement proposals must fall to the ground.

“ Then, Sir, I will come to another important question, namely, the question of cultivation expenses. Under the settlement rules, I suppose, one can excuse the resettlement officer for not going into details—under the rules he is not bound to go into the details of the cost of

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having reference to the present economic depression, to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to study the position and to make recommendations to the Government as to whether Government should take any measures in connexion with it and if so what measures. It is possible they may consider various proposals, amongst them being perhaps the question of a temporary reduction of assessment, either generally for the whole province or for particular districts or particular classes of lands or for particular crops; they may also consider facilities to be offered by the co-operative marketing of goods or by making advances to ryots, either direct or through co-operative banks. Whatever may be decided, it seems to me that we should not give to these three districts an advantage of about 20 per cent over the remaining districts of the Presidency, especially those districts where the resettlement has been recently introduced, such as Bellary, Anantapur, Tanjore and South Arcot. The proper course will be for these new rates to be notified; but whether they should be actually enforced next year or not will be a matter for consideration by the new committee which will surely consider all questions connected with the present economic depression."

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The amendment was carried.

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'That this Council recommends to the Government that, with reference to the recommendations of the Economic Enquiry Committee, the proposed resettlement in Kistna, and East and West Godavari districts, be not given effect to.'"

The motion was carried.

V.—ELECTION OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY COMPANY.

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The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[29th January 1931]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 189-A asked by Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1931, page 449 supra.]

G.O. Ms. No. 5330, Law (General), dated 18th December 1930.

READ—the following paper:—

From the Inspector-General of Prisons, dated 3rd December 1930,
G. No. 1704.

Order—Ms. No. 5330, dated 18th December 1930.

The Government sanction the proposal of the Inspector-General of Prisons that the old female enclosure in the Central Jail, Rajahmundry, may be declared a borstal school and that adolescent offenders convicted for offences connected with the civil disobedience movement may be transferred to that school. They also sanction the following establishment in the school for a period of six months:—

- (1) One Probationary Assistant Superintendent on Rs. 60 a month.
- (2) One Physical Drill Instructor on Rs. 25 a month.
- (3) One selection grade Petty Officer on Rs. 25 a month.
- (4) Three ordinary grade Petty Officers on Rs. 17 a month.

2. The expenditure during the current year should be met from the general savings under '25. Jails and Convict settlements—Establishment—Central Jails'.

3. The following notification will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*:—

Notification.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Madras Borstal Schools Act, 1925 (Madras Act V of 1926), the Local Government are hereby pleased to constitute a special enclosure in the Central Jail, Rajahmundry, for the detention of adolescent offenders and to declare it as a borstal school under that Act.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 191-B asked by Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1931, page 451 supra.]

*Number of satyagraha prisoners convicted and classified during
March to October 1930.*

District.	Number in 'A' class.	Number in 'B' class.	Number in 'C' class.
Anantapur	...	...	...
Arcot, North	1	1	22
Arcot, South	...	2	72
Bellary	...	...	59
Chingleput	...	6	17
Chittoor	...	...	4
Coimbatore	...	8	279
Cuddapah	...	...	14
Ganjam	4	30	115
Godavari, East	1	23	61
Godavari, West	11	88	529
Guntur	8	73	479
Kanara, South	14	13	121
Kistna	3	50	319
Kurnool	...	...	...
Madras City	9	20	119
Madura	...	11	357
Malabar	6	15	328
Nellore	...	17	195
Nilgiris, The	...	...	9
Ramnad	...	5	70
Salem	...	...	1
Tanjore	5	26	251
Tinnevely...	...	6	86
Trichinopoly	...	2	141
Vizagapatam	4	18	40
Total	66	414	3,688

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APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 192 asked by Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1931, page 451 supra.]

* 5 Q.—MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what was the number of prisoners that resorted to hunger-strike from March to October 1930;

(b) the reason for such hunger-strike;

(c) the jails in which such hunger-strike took place;

(d) the class of prisoners amongst whom hunger-strike was resorted to;

(e) the duration of each strike; and

(f) how each case ended.

A.—(a), (b), (c), (e), & (f) The information is given in the attached statement.^a

(d) With the exception of the hunger-strike referred to in items (5), (8) and (10) of the statement, all the other strikes were confined to satyagraha prisoners of the 'A', 'B' and 'C' classes.

Statement.

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APPENDIX

Number of prisoners who resorted to hunger-strike.	Reasons for hunger-strike.	Name of jail where hunger-strike took place.	The duration of each strike.	How each case ended.
(1) About 450	As a protest against 'C' class satyagrahis not being treated better than the ordinary 'C' class prisoners and to press for the supply of raw rice and buttermilk for 'C' class prisoners.	Central Jail, Rajahmundry.	Only one meal was rejected and the strike ended immediately.	The prisoners gave up the hunger-strike on the Superintendent informing them that their representations would be brought to the notice of the Inspector-General.
(2) 1	As a protest against his classification ..	Central Jail, Trichinopoly.	From 22nd to 25th June 1930.	The hunger-strike was voluntarily given up.
(3) 50	In order to gain the privilege of wearing Congress clothing inside the jail, of using separate eating and drinking vessels and to get buttermilk and coconut oil.	Central Jail, Coimbatore.	12th June 1930 midday meal and 13th June 1930 morning congee were refused.	Strike ended when prisoners were informed that their requests were contrary to rules.
(4) 11	As a protest against the removal of an idol kept by them under a tree. They made a complaint to the Board of Visitors who did not take any action, as their behaviour towards them was objectionable.	Do.	30th September 1930 midday meal. Refused to take meal for two hours.	The hunger-strike was voluntarily given up.
(5) 691	As a protest against the change of dining place, from the blocks to the new dining shed in the factory enclosure.	Do.	29th October 1930 midday meal. In the evening 200 prisoners took meals, and the rest the next morning.	The prisoners were informed that it was necessary for the meals to be served in the dining sheds within the factory enclosure for administrative reasons and that it was not proposed to accede to their request. They thereupon voluntarily gave up the hunger-strike the following morning.
(6) 1	In order to compel the authorities to give them raw rice and curd or buttermilk to all 'C' class satyagraha prisoners.	Penitentiary, Madras	Started indifferently on 19th September 1930, but went on in real earnest from 23rd September to 4th October 1930.	The hunger-strike was given up voluntarily

Number of prisoners who resorted to hunger strike.	Reasons for hunger strike.	Name of jail where hunger strike took place.	The duration of each strike.	How each case ended.
(7) 314	One satyagraha prisoner hoisted Congress flag on No. 5 block. It was forcibly hoisted down, and as a result hunger-strike was begun.	Central Jail, Cannanore.	From the morning of 9th to 11th September 1930.	The hunger-strike was given up voluntarily.
(8) 1	The prisoner was transferred from the Central Jail, Cannanore, on disciplinary grounds. As a protest against the transfer he went on hunger-strike.	Central Jail, Salem.	From 22nd February to 12th April 1930.	He was admitted into the hospital. He gave up hunger-strike voluntarily.
(9) 1	On the prisoner's transfer from Central Jail, Cannanore, his personal effects were searched. As a protest against this, he refused food.	Do.	From 17th to 21st August 1930.	Do.
(10) 1	The prisoner demanded Saivite dirt, which was refused on the ground that he was on mixed diet, when he was confined in the jail on a previous occasion.	Central Jail, Salem.	From 3rd September to 13th November 1930.	He was admitted into the hospital. He gave up hunger-strike voluntarily.
(11) 1	He started hunger strike as he was placed in 'C' class by Government, although the committing Court recommended him to 'B' class, and as some of the Satyagrahi prisoners were not placed in 'B' class.	Central Jail, Bellary.	Four days	The hunger-strike was given up voluntarily.
(12) 4	Four other prisoners resorted to hunger strike in sympathy with the above prisoner.	Do.	One day (one)	Do.
(13) 1	As a protest against the refusal of supply of coconut oil, soaps, tooth brushes, and other luxuries which the prisoner demanded.	Do.	Four days	Do.
(14) 1	To show the prisoners' disapproval of the sentence passed on Bhagat Singh in the Lahore Conspiracy case.	Alipuram Jail, Bellary.	From 10th October 1930 to 15th October 1930.	Do.

(15)	35	Went on hunger strike as their request for the supply of butter-milk, ghee, oil for bath, etc., was refused.	District Jail, Madura.	Three prisoners for 7 days, 5 for 4 days and 27 for 1 day.	The hunger strike was given up after persuasion.
(16)	40	As a protest against the present classification of Satyagraha prisoners.	District Jail, Berhampur.	One prisoner for 7 days and 39 for 3 days.	The strike ended on the Superintendent informing the prisoners that he would bring their grievances to the notice of the Inspector-General.
(17)	1	The prisoner wanted a transfer to the plains, and to effect this he went on hunger strike.	District Jail, Koraput.	Two days	The hunger strike was given up as his case had been referred to the Inspector-General of Prisons.
(18)	1	He wanted that he and other Satyagraha prisoners should be given raw rice. As his request was refused he went on hunger strike.	Sub-Jail, Nellore ..	One and half days	He gave up hunger strike as forcible feeding was resorted to.
(19)	2	As a protest against the refusal of raw rice, dholl, curry, ghee, sambar, butter-milk, coffee, etc.	Sub-Jail, Russell-konda.	Three days	The hunger strike was given up voluntarily.
(20)	1	The prisoner wanted raw rice and to gain his object, he refused food.	Sub-Jail, Calicut ..	Two days	Do.
	1,608	Total prisoners that went on hunger strike.			

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APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 201-A, asked by Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1931, page 466 supra.]

Letter from the Collector of South Arcot, R.O.C. No. A-5-12779/30, dated the 10th January 1931.

1. *Extent of the cyclone and the floods*.—There was a storm on the night of the 28th November 1930 which continued for about 36 hours accompanied by a rainfall of $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in Tindivanam taluk, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in Gingee taluk and 5 inches in Villupuram taluk. The storm swept over the above three taluks and also Cuddalore taluk. Floods were caused by the rivers overflowing and also water escaping from breached tanks.

2. *Total number of lives lost and of families that have been rendered homeless*.—Two boys in Tindivanam taluk were drowned by the floods in Ongur river and one old woman died in Villupuram taluk on account of the collapses of house. One hundred and eleven families were rendered homeless (96 families in Tindivanam taluk and 15 in Gingee taluk).

3. (a) *Extent of damage done to Government property other than irrigation works*.—Two cattle pounds in Tindivanam taluk collapsed owing to heavy rain.

(b) *Extent of damage to irrigation works (not in charge of Public Works Department)*.—One hundred and eighty-three minor irrigation works in Tindivanam taluk, 92 in Gingee, 44 in Villupuram and one in Cuddalore—320 tanks in all have been breached. Of these, 22 have been badly damaged. The total damage is estimated at Rs. 2,00,000.

(c) *Extent of damage done to crops and fields and other private property including houses and livestock*.—Very few houses have been destroyed though in many villages a few houses have suffered from minor dilapidations. It is merely mud and thatched houses that have been materially damaged. Fields in front of breach sites have been silted. There was no loss of livestock. But there was loss of crop in all the four taluks. The damage to private property is thus estimated at Rs. 33,150 in Tindivanam taluk, Rs. 13,750 in Gingee taluk, Rs. 3,000 in Villupuram taluk and Rs. 1,75,640 in Cuddalore taluk where second year betel gardens in twelve villages have been completely destroyed on account of the strong wind making a total of Rs. 2,25,540.

4. *Measures taken to mitigate the effects of floods*.—As soon as communications were partially restored early in December the Collector, Executive Engineer, Sub-Collector and Minor Irrigation Supervisor and all available Revenue, Public Works Department and Minor Irrigation staff proceeded to the affected taluks and hurried on with restoration work. The ryots were ordered to carry out their customary duties of ring-bending the breaches by kudimaramat so as to save the remaining supplies and any supply that may be received before the end of the monsoon. The Minor Irrigation staff were directed to prepare estimates for closing breaches. Additional Minor Irrigation staff were posted without delay and at present there are four Minor Irrigation Overseers at work in Tindivanam taluk and three in Gingee taluk. Out of the 320 tanks that were breached, estimates for 209 tanks have been

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prepared and 79 works already let on contract. Everything possible (not being the duty of the Public Works Department) has been done with a view to mitigate the effects of the floods.

5. *The measures taken for the relief of distress and their cost to Government.*—The Adi-Dravidas of Kuchikolattur in Tindivanam taluk lost their houses and stock of grain by the floods in the Ongur river; 34 households were paid Rs. 349 from my discretionary grant. Also 160 palmyra trees and 500 palmyra leaves were granted by the Sub-Collector for the poor persons in Kuchikolattur and two other affected villages. The total cost on account of these measures comes to Rs. 942-8-0.

6. (i) (a) *Further reliefs by way of advance to cultivators.*—The only cultivators who may require advances are those whose lands have been silted up by the rush of water from tank breaches. These will be granted under the ordinary rules.

(b) *Further relief to the people rendered homeless.*—No further relief is necessary under this head as large number of shallow rooted trees were blown down by the storm both in Government and private lands. There is no scarcity of timber except bamboos. Most of the damaged houses have already been repaired or are in the process of being repaired. Loans for re-building houses, if applied for, will be granted under the ordinary rules.

(ii) *Further relief by other means.*—Nil.

(7) (a) 3-a and 3-b. Approximate estimated cost on account of repairs to Government property.

3-a. Cost of repairs to the two cattle pounds is estimated at Rs. 300.

3-b. Repairs to irrigation works are estimated at

Rs. 1,00,000 in Tindivanam taluk.

Rs. 20,000 in Gingee taluk.

Rs. 11,000 in Villupuram taluk.

Rs. 1,31,000

The above estimate does not include the cost of repairing the erosions on the bunds of tanks which have not breached. The cost of these repairs is not ascertainable as the Minor Irrigation Overseers are now engaged in the urgent and immediate work of closing breaches. Hence the total damage was estimated at Rs. 2,00,000.

(b) *Anticipated remission of revenue.*—In Tindivanam taluk it is reported to be Rs. 20,468 at present. This amount may rise to Rs. 60,000 according to the course of the season. It is estimated at Rs. 10,000 in Gingee taluk, Rs. 3,000 in Villupuram taluk and Rs. 700 in Cuddalore taluk.

(8) *Breaches closed by private agencies.*—The one breach in Cuddalore taluk was closed by the ryots.

(9) *Measures to prevent recurrence of such floods, et.*—A most abnormal volume of water descended upon the three taluks of Tindivanam, Gingee and Villupuram from Wandiwash taluk of North Arcot district. The calingulas were of course inadequate to carry off the sudden and most exceptional supply. The only practicable measure to prevent the recurrence of such damages is to increase the width of the existing calingulas and to make an

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allowance for such increase while constructing new calingulas. The possibility of draining the Kaliveli—a natural lake near the coast which is a perpetual nuisance to the surrounding villages is being examined by the Public Works Department.

General—Paragraph 3 of the Board's Reference.—Free grants of palmyra trees have already been granted as stated against paragraph 5 in deserving cases and no further grant is reported to be necessary. No trees need be supplied at cost price to those rendered homeless but not too poor to pay for reasons stated against 6 (i) (b).

APPENDIX V.

[Vide answer to question No. 202-A asked by Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1931, page 468, supra.]

I

**Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement),
No. R. 6976/30-2, dated 7th January 1931.**

READ—the following paper :—

Letter from T. B. RUSSELL, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of North Arcot, Vellore, dated the 23rd December 1930, Ref. No. E. 8-14968/30.

[Floods—Palar and Cheyyar rivers—Report submitted.]

There was heavy rainfall with cyclonic winds on the 29th November last and the night previous to it, in Vellore, Cheyyar, Wandiwash, Wallajah and Polur taluks, the record of rainfall ranging from 6 to 14 inches, the latter in Vellore town. About 287 irrigation sources (166 Minor Irrigation and 121 Public Works Department sources) in the above five taluks breached, as a result of the storm, also about 28 tanks in the Arni estate. The heavy rainfall coupled with the discharge from the breached tanks brought down heavy floods in the Palar, Cheyyar and Poiney rivers. Luckily, for the villages adjoining the banks of the Palar the floods in it did not rise, as there were no breaches of tanks in the upper Palar in Mysore.

2. As a result of the floods, the South Indian Railway line near Vellore, breached and the flood banks constructed by the Public Works Department on the banks of the Palar and the Cheyyar were damaged in about four places—Communication between Vellore and Katpadi by rail and road was cut off on the 29th night and 30th November. Cheyyar and Wandiwash were likewise cut off from all communications from outside for about two days. The Palar between Ranipet and Arcot became unfordable. In Vellore, Cheyyar and Wandiwash, there was considerable fear of a catastrophe but fortunately, the floods subsided without any loss of human life; about 32 cattle were lost in a few villages in Wandiwash taluk.

About a dozen persons were marooned in the bungalows and houses in the fields and gardens near Vellore town and they were rescued on 30th November 1930 by the police, with the help of rafts got from Arcot for the purpose. The District Superintendent of Police, the Principal, Police Training School, and the Revenue Divisional Officer directed the rescue work.

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3. As regards the breaches of tanks, immediate intimation was given to the officers of the Public Works Department regarding the damaged works in charge of the Public Works Department. The Tahsildars were authorized to attend to the immediate closure of breaches in the tanks in charge of the Revenue Department, where the work is beyond the scope of 'Kudimaramat.' The extent of damage done to the minor irrigation sources in Wandiwash taluk is considerable, 131 tanks have breached and 31 have been damaged. I am making a special report to the Board about the additional allotment and the staff required to restore them as quickly as possible.

In a majority of the cases the minor breaches have been closed or ring bunds put up by the ryots themselves to retain some supply with a view to save the standing crops under the tanks.

4. The extent of damages done to crops and lands in Wallajah and Polur as the result of the breaches in tanks, etc., is negligible. In Cheyyar, the area of crops damaged and the extent of lands silted up with sand is small, while in Vellore, the damage done to lands and crops is estimated at about 1,050 acres in about half a dozen villages. The damage done in Wandiwash is considerable, the extent damaged being about 550 acres in 103 villages. The amount of remissions that may have to be granted in Wandiwash alone is estimated at about Rs. 28,000 while in the other taluks affected, it may amount to only a few thousands. Advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act will be made to the ryots where necessary to reclaim the lands that have been damaged by the floods.

5. The Thellar tank, which is a big irrigation source in charge of the Public Works Department, breached and the villagers of Thellar, had to evacuate their village and seek safety in Wandiwash town. Fortunately, there was no loss of life. In Wandiwash taluk, the number of mud or thatched houses damaged by the floods and rainfall is about 266, in about 46 villages, while in Vellore, it was about one hundred. The number of houses damaged in Cheyyar is only about fifteen while the reports from Wallajah and Polur do not show any such damage. The extent of property damaged is not considerable as the houses affected are all mud or thatched ones and the sufferers are all poor.

I have placed at the disposal of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Cheyyar, a sum of Rs. 350 from the discretionary grant to give immediate relief to the poor sufferers who were rendered helpless at the time. A further allotment of Rs. 1,500 or 2,000 under the discretionary grant will be required on this account. In Wandiwash about 900 persons were given immediate relief by the donations raised by the public of the town for the purpose. In Vellore, the Municipal Council has appointed a relief committee to enquire into the condition of the affected persons and to give suitable relief to them. For this object, the Council has decided to contribute Rs. 2,000 from Municipal funds.

Free grant of building materials to the value of Rs. 560 has so far been sanctioned by me to 78 families in Vellore taluk. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Cheyyar, has taken steps to sanction similar grant of building materials to the sufferers in Cheyyar and Wandiwash taluks.

6. Detailed particulars of lands badly silted up, the extent over which the crops were damaged, the amount of remissions to be granted, the amount of additional allotment required under discretionary grant, etc., called for from the Tahsildars concerned have not yet been received. I shall report on these particulars in detail after the Christmas holidays.

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Reference—No. R. 6976/30-2, dated 7th January 1931.

Submitted to Government.

2. *Paragraph 5 of the Collector's letter—Additional allotment for relief measures.*—The Collector has been asked to report before 10th January 1931 the amount required under '47. R. j. Miscellaneous—Miscellaneous, and unforeseen charges—ii—Miscellaneous,' as the charges incurred in connexion with the relief of distress are debitable to that head. His reply is awaited.

3. *Minor Irrigation Works—Repairs.*—The special report referred to in paragraph 3 of the Collector's letter is awaited. The Collector is requested to report not later than 12th January 1931 what additional allotment he requires during the current official year for repairs to Minor Irrigation works damaged by the floods.

4. The detailed report promised by the Collector in paragraph 6 of his letter is awaited.

5. The Collector is requested to report in due course the value of building materials granted free to the deserving poor in Vellore, Cheyyar and Wandiwash taluks.

II

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement), No. 6976/30-3, dated 12th January 1931.

[Floods—North Arcot—Damage—Collector's further report submitted.]

READ—the following paper :—

Letter from T. B. RUSSELL, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of North Arcot, dated 8th January 1931, R.O.C. No. E. 8-14968/30.

[Reference.—My letter R.O.C. No. E. 8-14968/30, dated 23rd December 1930.]

'In continuation of my report quoted above, I submit herewith a statement showing the particulars of the damage caused by the floods, prepared with reference to the final reports received from the Tahsildars.

2. As already reported in my letter R.O.C. No. E. 5-15066/30, dated 6th January 1931, no additional allotment or staff is required during the current year in connexion with the restoration of the damaged Minor Irrigation sources in charge of the Revenue Department. I am addressing the Board separately regarding the additional allotment and staff required in 1931-32 to repair the damaged works before the next monsoon.

3. The Board having ordered that charges in connexion with the relief of distress caused by the recent floods should be debited to '47. R. j. Miscellaneous—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges—ii. Miscellaneous,' and not to 'discretionary grant,' an allotment of Rs. 1,250 under '47. R. j. Miscellaneous—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges, etc.,' has been applied for in my letter R.O.C. No. E. 9-5086/30, dated 8th January 1931. In applying for an allotment for Rs. 1,250, I have taken into consideration the fact that the Taluk Board, Cheyyar, has already addressed the Government for the grant of a sum of Rs. 1,000 from the Taluk Board funds to grant relief to the distressed.

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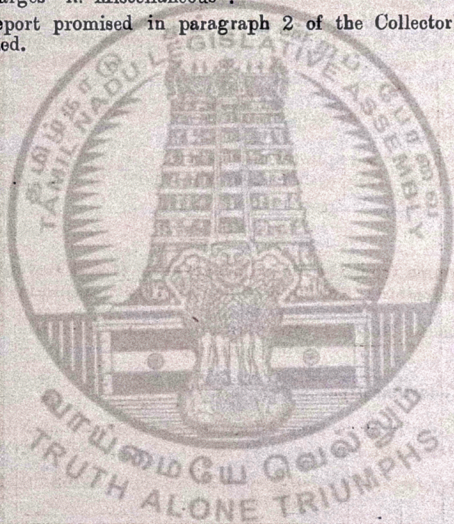
Reference—No. H. 6976/30-3, dated 12th January 1931.

Submitted to Government in continuation of the Board's Reference No. H. 6976/30-2, dated 7th January 1931.

2. The Board has called for a complete report from the Collector. A further report will be submitted to Government on receipt of the Collector's report.

3. The Board requests that Government will be pleased to sanction, at an early date, an allotment of Rs. 1,250 under '47 R.j. Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges—ii. Miscellaneous'.

4. The report promised in paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter read above is awaited.



ENCLOSURE

Statement showing the particulars of taluks breached, property damaged, etc., during the floods—
North Arcot district.

District.	Taluk.			—		Estimated value of other property destroyed or damaged.	Number of cattle lost.	Number of lives lost.	Number of tanks breached and damaged.		Probable amount of remissions that may have to be granted on account of flood damages.	Approximate area and cost of reclamation of the silted up area.		Number of dead bodies.
				Number of houses damaged or destroyed.	Extent of crops damaged.				Minor Irrigation.	Public Works Department.		Area.	Approximate cost of reclamation.	
North Arcot.	Cheygar	..	134	161	ACS. 323	RS. 4,450	825	1	76	115	RS. 2,080	ACS. 139	RS. 7,000	..
	Wandiwash	..	148	266	549	4,592	32	..	159	65	27,733	549	..	..
	Polur	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	25	18	80	5	500	..
	Wallajah	..	42	97	127	700	528	..	19	30	1,100	23	1,300	..
	Vellore	..	45	413†	438	4,617	255	2	13	5	300	24‡	2,750	..
	Arkonam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
	Total ..	..	369	937§	446	4,359	1,640	3	293	233	31,293	750	11,550	..

* The silting up of the area is reported to be not serious. Many applications are not expected to be received for State aid.

† Only walls fell down and they were built up.

‡ Area affected is being reclaimed.

§ Almost all the houses damaged or destroyed were only huts, with mud walls.

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APPENDIX VI.

[Vide answer to question No. 219 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1931, page 479 supra.]

Names of villages.

Names of villages.

1. Kayyur.
2. Kurpadi.
3. Pendali.
4. Pallikara.
5. Nekaji.
6. Mooda.
7. Kalliga.
8. Thumba.
9. Panemangalore.
10. Munnur.
11. Payyuni.
12. Bandwal Mooda.
13. Kunya.
14. Tokkur.
15. Naningana.
16. Marakada.
17. Kavour.
18. Mulur.
19. Balapuni.
20. Talapady.
21. Harkula.
22. Kariyangala.
23. Derehail.
24. Konaji.
25. Bolur (B).
26. Pranthya.
27. Marpadi.
28. Puthiga.
29. Kuchur.
30. Badagamjar.
31. Thodar.
32. Hosangady.
33. Koyyur.

34. Punacha.
35. Kadaba.
36. Kudumbala.
37. Bagathur.
38. Uppanangadi.
39. Kankady.
40. Bilimala.
41. Kuvattu.
42. Machina.
43. Kalanja.
44. Alankar.
45. Bandra.
46. Nekkilady.
47. Pumaachapady.
48. Savanoor.
49. Aivathoklu.
50. Nettangemudlur.
51. Muppiruya.
52. Ariyadka.
53. Mundaghi.
54. Ujre.
55. Kemminja.
56. Sarve.
57. Salathur.
58. Juttiyar.
59. Karaya.
60. Chitrapadi.
61. Vaddarse.
62. Kavadi.
63. Chernukady.
64. Chanthar.
65. Matapady.

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APPENDIX VII.

[Vide answer to question No. 221 asked by Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1931, page 480 supra.]

Statement showing the municipalities in which the compulsory elementary education scheme is in force.

Number and name of municipality.

1. Vellore.
2. Kumbakonam.
3. Negapatam.
4. Conjeeveram.
5. Tellicherry.
6. Tiruppur.
7. Tinnevely.
8. Chingleput.
9. Erode.
10. Masulipatam.
11. Cochin.
12. Mayavaram.
13. Madura.

Number and name of municipality.

14. Hindupur.
15. Proddattur.
16. Dindigul.
17. Calicut.
18. Parlakimedi.
19. Hospet.
20. Virudhunagar.
21. Ellore.
22. Rajahmundry.
23. Anantapur.
24. Nellore.
25. Madras Corporation.

வாய்மையே வெல்லும்
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

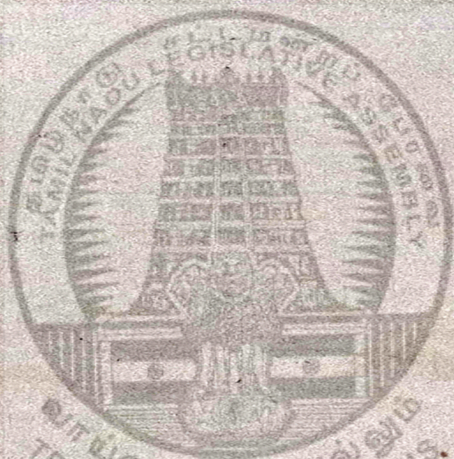
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APPENDIX VIII.

[Vide answer to question No. 222-B asked by Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1931, page 481 supra.]

Year.	Number of scholarships sanctioned.		Individual monthly value.	Aggregate value.	
	Class.	Number.			
			RS. A.	RS. A. P.	
Boys -					
1926-27 ..	I Form ..	1	3 0	396 0 0	
	II " ..	4	3 0		
	III " ..	2	3 0		
	V " ..	2	6 0		
	Total ..	9	..		
1927-28 ..	I Form ..	5	3 0	640 0 0	
	II " ..	1	3 0		
	III " ..	4	3 0		
	IV " ..	2	6 0		
	VI " ..	2	6 0		
	Total ..	14	..		
1928-29 ..	VI Standard ..	1	2 0	849 5 0	
	I Form ..	5	3 0		
	II " ..	5	3 0		
	III " ..	1	3 0		
	IV " ..	4	6 0		
	V " ..	2	6 0		
	VI " ..	..	..		
	Total ..	18	..		
1929-30 ..	VII Standard ..	1	2 8	979 6 0	
	I Form ..	3	3 0		
	II " ..	5	3 0		
	III " ..	5	3 0		
	IV " ..	1	6 0		
	V " ..	4	6 0		
	VI " ..	2	6 0		
	Total ..	21	..		
1930-31 ..	VIII Standard ..	1	3 0	353 5 0 (for five months only July to November 1930).	
	I Form ..	3	3 0		
	II " ..	2	3 0		
	III " ..	5	3 0		
	IV " ..	5	6 0		
	V " ..	1	6 0		
	VI " ..	4	6 0		
	Total ..	21	..		
Girls -					
1926 ..	VI Standard ..	1	2 0	24 0 0	

* This scholarship has not been renewed after 1926.



வாய்மையே வெல்லும்
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS.